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READING GUIDE

EAST AFRICA

To enhance your travel experience, we've compiled a selection of favorite, new, and hard-to-find books about your destination. You can find these books online by clicking on the titles. Also feel free to visit your local bookstore or library for your reading materials.

ESSENTIAL



Beryl Markham

[West with the Night](#)

2013, PAPER, 294 PAGES

Markham evokes the landscapes, people and wildlife of East Africa in engrossing detail in this classic memoir of amazing adventures as abush pilot in 1930s Kenya. A favorite.

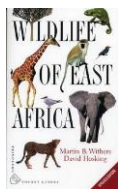


Richard Estes

[The Safari Companion](#)

1999, PAPER, 459 PAGES

An invaluable encyclopedic guide to Africa's mammals by a noted scientist, this perennial bestseller includes black-and-white drawings, an overview of each animal group and in-depth information. Written with the typical safari-goer in mind.

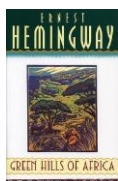


Martin B. Withers

[Wildlife of East Africa](#)

2002, PAPER, 256 PAGES

This take-along guide to 475 common species of birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, trees and flowers of East Africa features full-color photographs with detailed descriptions on facing pages.



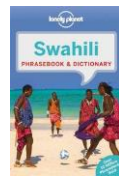
Ernest Hemingway

[Green Hills of Africa](#)

1996, PAPER, 304 PAGES

Hemingway paints the true story of his ramblings on safari in this classic, exquisitely written tale of hunting around Lake Manyara, which includes some of the best writing on the land itself and original pencil drawings. Originally published in 1935.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

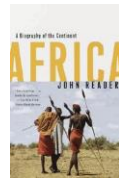


Lonely Planet

[Lonely Planet Swahili Phrasebook](#)

2014, PAPER, 260 PAGES

A pocket phrasebook, dictionary and language guide for the traveler to East Africa.



John Reader

[Africa, a Biography of the Continent](#)

1999, PAPER, 816 PAGES

With the ease of a practiced journalist, Reader weaves a masterful and lively tale of the continent, from ancient cultures to modern times. Both authoritative and informal, this is a splendid introduction to all of Africa.



Matteo Guzzini (Photographer)

[African Heroes, Samburu-Maasai](#)

2014, HARD COVER, 176 PAGES

Guzzini captures the rituals and travels of the mysterious Masaai communities of Tanzania and Kenya in beautiful, untouched photographs that honor the people and their land.

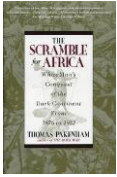


Giles Foden

[Mimi and Toutou's Big Adventure, The Bizarre Battle of Lake Tanganyika](#)

2006, PAPER, 272 PAGES

Foden (Last King of Scotland) recounts with color and drama the all-true tale that inspired The African Queen: the impossible gunboat raid against powerful German steamers on Lake Tanganyika by the boorish, incompetent minor Royal Navy lieutenant Geoffrey Spicer-Samson.

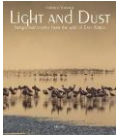


Thomas Pakenham

The Scramble for Africa

1992, PAPER, 738 PAGES

Absorbing and meticulously researched, this in-depth history of the Victorian land grab in 19th-century Africa includes excellent portraits of the egomaniacal personalities who overran the continent.

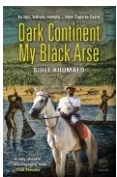


Federico Veronesi

Light and Dust

2015, HARD COVER, 240 PAGES

This gorgeously photographed tribute to the animals of Eastern Africa captures the region's wild creatures at their most sociable and dramatic. Veronesi's lens tracks the animals into mists, dust storms and heavy rains.

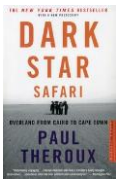


Sible Khumalo

Dark Continent, My Black Arse

2010, PAPER, 223 PAGES

Traveling the length of Africa (from Cape to Cairo) by public transport, Sihle Khumalo describes a journey fraught with discomfort, mishap, disillusionment, and ecstasy. A uniquely African travel story that (be warned) might inspire you to quit your job.

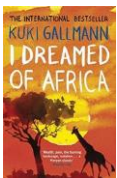


Paul Theroux

Dark Star Safari

2004, PAPER, 472 PAGES

Theroux sets his sights on Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and other countries in this travelogue that spans Cairo to the Cape. By means of local buses, cattle trucks, hitched rides, trains and canoes, Theroux revisits this land of his youth -- he worked there in the 1960s -- on the eve of his 60th birthday.

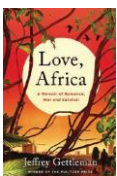


Kuki Gallmann

I Dreamed of Africa

2007, PAPER, 352 PAGES

First published in 1991, this powerful and sorrow-laden memoir tells the story of one woman's life in Kenya (which, unfortunately, includes the deaths of her husband and son) and enlarges into a meditation on the beauty, magic, and danger of the African continent.



Jeffrey Gettleman

Love, Africa

2017, HARD COVER, 336 PAGES

At 19, Gettleman volunteered in East Africa--a terrifying, exciting, dreamlike part of the world that captured his imagination and on his heart. He also fell in love with a fellow volunteer. While she became a lawyer in America; he hungered to be in Africa. For the next decade he would be torn by two dueling obsessions.

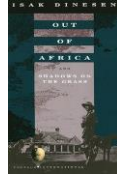


Shiva Naipaul

North of South, An African Journey

1979, PAPER, 349 PAGES

A sharp portrait of Africa, circa 1979. A brilliant and provocative observer, Naipaul meditates on the various peoples he encounters in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. The best, most insightful thing we've read about race relations in Africa.



Isak Dinesen

Out of Africa

1989, PAPER, 466 PAGES

The perennially best-selling tale of a naive young woman who leaves Denmark for East Africa, Dinesen's (AKA Karen Blixen) autobiography draws us into life on a struggling coffee plantation. It's a moving story inspired by a love for Kenya and its people. Includes the novella Shadows on the Grass.



Elsbeth Huxley

The Flame Trees of Thika

2000, PAPER, 280 PAGES

The classic account of a young woman's life as a pioneering settler in Thika, Kenya. Huxley looks back at her intrepid parents and the home they made together in Kenya's Highlands.



Brian Jackman

The Marsh Lions, The Story of an African Pride

2012, PAPER, 224 PAGES

Illustrated with photographs and drawings by Jonathan and Angela Scott, this new edition of the tale of a pride of lions in the Masai Mara includes a chapter bringing the story up to date.

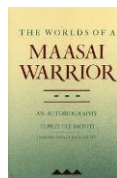


Peter Matthiessen

The Tree Where Man Was Born

2010, PAPER, 368 PAGES

A classic portrait of East Africa, enthralling in its detail on nature and daily life. Includes Maasai Mara, Ngorongoro, the Kenyan highlands and Matthiessen's field trips, safaris and adventures in the Serengeti.

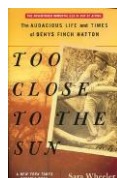


Ole Saitoti

The Worlds of a Maasai Warrior

1988, PAPER, 170 PAGES

Bridging several worlds with tremendous grace, Saitoti looks back on his life among the Maasai, both as spokesperson for his tribe and as one of the first Maasai safari guides.



Sara Wheeler

Too Close to the Sun

2009, PAPER, 292 PAGES

Wheeler captures the romance and adventure of 1920s-era East Africa in this winning biography of Denys Finch Hatton, the handsome gadabout, pilot and companion of Baroness Blixen and Beryl Markham.



Wangari Maathai

Unbowed, A Memoir

2007, PAPER, 368 PAGES

The remarkable life story of Nobel Prize-winning Wangari, the founder Kenya's Green Belt Movement who has spent a lifetime fighting for women's rights and the environment. Forty million trees have been planted in Kenya.

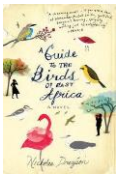


Ngugi wa Thiong'o

A Grain of Wheat

2012, PAPER, 272 PAGES

Set in the wake of the Mau Mau rebellion and on the cusp of Kenya's independence from Britain, A Grain of Wheat follows a group of villagers whose lives have been transformed by the 1952-1960 Emergency. At the center of this novel is the reticent Mugo, the village's chosen hero and a man haunted by a terrible secret.

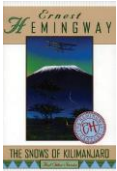


Nicholas Drayson

A Guide to the Birds of East Africa, A Novel

2009, PAPER, 192 PAGES

Drayson draws on his time in Nairobi for this sweet novel about East Africa society -- revolving, naturally, around birding and the Hunt Ball at the Asadi Club. Reality intervenes in the shape of renegade Somalis.

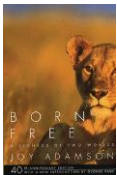


Ernest Hemingway

The Snows of Kilimanjaro

1995, PAPER, 156 PAGES

Set in Africa, this collection of 10 prime Hemingway stories includes not just the famous title story but also The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber, a chilling masterpiece about an American couple on a big game safari.

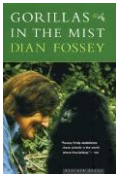


Joy Adamson

Born Free, A Lioness of Two Worlds

2000, PAPER, 220 PAGES

The 40th anniversary edition of Adamson's enduring tale set in Kenya's northern frontier district. A well-known painter, Adamson adopts a lion cub raised in captivity, intending to return it to the wild.



Dian Fossey

Gorillas in the Mist

2000, PAPER, 326 PAGES

Fossey's highly personal, detailed account of the ecology and behavior of the mountain gorilla of Virunga is based on her 13 years among "the greatest of the great apes."

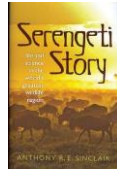


Anup Shah

Serengeti Spy

2012, HARD COVER, 204 PAGES

A hoof-level view of the Masai Mara and Serengeti. Photographer Anup Shah lets the wildlife reveal itself by placing small remote cameras at watering holes, outcrops and other strategic spots. The ground-level perspective is as surprising as it is clever, putting you face-to-face with lion and cheetah and wildebeest and all the creatures in action across the plains.



Anthony Sinclair

Serengeti Story

2012, HARD COVER, 270 PAGES

Sinclair looks back at 50 years of science, nature, politics and history of the great reserve in this personable overview of the Serengeti ecosystem.

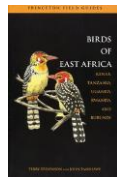


James Kavanagh

African Wildlife

1999, PLASTIC CARD

A laminated foldout guide illustrating almost 150 species of African animals, designed for quick reference in the field.



Terry Stevenson, John Fanshawe

Birds of East Africa

2006, PAPER, 602 PAGES

Compact and comprehensive, this guide to 1,388 species of birds in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi features 286 excellent color plates, range maps and notes on habitats and conservation. A veteran tour leader, co-author Stevenson lives in Kenya.



Adam Scott Kennedy

Birds of the Masai Mara

2012, PAPER, 176 PAGES

Kennedy's compact guide, full of local knowledge on habitats and birding spots, features 300 color photographs.



Jonathan Kingdon

The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals

2015, PAPER, 544 PAGES

This stunningly illustrated, comprehensive field guide by a leading authority includes over 500 of Kingdon's exquisite color paintings. Fully revised and updated with more than 1,100 species.

FOR YOUNG SAFARI-GOERS



Muriel Feelings, Tom Feelings (Illustrator)

[Moja Means One, Swahili Counting Book](#)

1992, PAPER, 56 PAGES

Tom provides detailed illustrations to accompany Muriel's presentation of the numbers 1-10 in Swahili. Intended for children ages 4-8, this Caldecott Honor book is packed with the sights and sounds of East Africa.



Lonely Planet Publications

[Let's Explore... Safari](#)

2016, PAPER, 48 PAGES

Part of Lonely Planet's "Let's Explore..." series, this sticker activity book takes explorers ages 5 to 8 on safari with fascinating facts, puzzles and plenty of pages to color and complete.

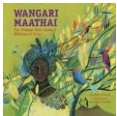


Patrick McDonnell

[Me... Jane](#)

2011, HARD COVER, 40 PAGES

Written with the cooperation of the great naturalist, young Jane Goodall's formative years are re-imagined in this captivating picture book by Patrick McDonnell. Dreams, as it turns out, do come true; the book ends with a photograph of the adult Goodall in the field.



Franck Prevot

[Wangari Maathai, The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees](#)

2017, HARD COVER, 48 PAGES

This colorful picture book tells the story of the late Kenyan ecofeminist Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. Written for ages 6 to 9.



Jane Goodall

[The Chimpanzee Children of Gombe](#)

2014, HARD COVER, 64 PAGES

A moving, personal account of stories and photos of young chimpanzees -- babies, toddlers and young adults -- living in Gombe National Park. Goodall reflects on the chimps and their welfare. Photographs by Michael Neugebauer. For ages 6 to 9.

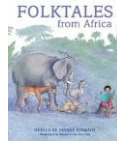


Anita Silvey

[Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall](#)

2015, HARD COVER, 96 PAGES

Full of color photographs, this Middle-Readers' biography introduces Jane Goodall, a prominent scientist known for her groundbreaking work with chimpanzees.



Dianne Stewart

[Folktales from Africa](#)

2015, PAPER, 128 PAGES

A beautifully illustrated collection of African tales that not only provide insight into their native countries, but also into the human condition. The insightful retellings by award-winning South African writer Dianne Stewart are accompanied by illustrations by Marjorie van Heerden. Written for ages 8-12.



Gloria Whelan

[Listening for Lions](#)

2007, PAPER, 194 PAGES

Plucked from her life among the Maasai and Kikuyu people in East Africa after the Great War, young Rachel fights for her family and the life she had in rural Africa in this absorbing novel for middle-schoolers.



Katherine Roy

[How to Be an Elephant](#)

2017, HARD COVER, 48 PAGES

This children's book takes readers (ages 7 to 11) inside Africa's elephant herds to show that being a good elephant takes a lot of learning! With beautiful watercolor illustrations, it shows how elephants learn.



David van Lill

[African Wildlife Trivia](#)

2008, PAPER, 128 PAGES

Full of facts and fun, this primer on the insects, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds of Africa contains eye-catching illustrations and info on African geography.



Eric Campbell

[The Place of Lions](#)

1995, PAPER, 208 PAGES

Stranded on the Serengeti after a plane crash, 14-year old Chris goes for help -- and befriends an aging lion along the way -- in this young adult thriller. With a strong sense of both the culture and landscapes of East Africa.



Roald Dahl

[Going Solo](#)

2009, PAPER, 224 PAGES

With its large print and album-like photos, both young and old will delight in Dahl's recollections of his adventures as a WWII-era RAF pilot in Tanzania and Greece.



Mark R. Thornton

[Kid Moses](#)

2017, PAPER, 176 PAGES

In this young adult novel, a homeless boy flees the grimy streets of Dar es Salaam and tries to survive in the wild Tanzanian veld. An unsentimental narrative, filled with the heat, the colors and scents of East Africa.