Animals Thrive on Four Savannas at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Giraffes, zebras and wildebeests have a colorful, diverse group of neighbors on the African savannas of Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge. They’re joined by a species of longhorn cattle so ancient it is depicted in Egyptian pyramids, a turkey-sized bird that walks on its tiptoes and a territorial hoofed creature called a blesbok.

Altogether, approximately 200 mammals and birds populate the nearly 45-acre area planted to replicate an African savanna. Guests of Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge can view the creatures from their resort balconies or from several viewing points — including a landscaped rock outcropping — the Arusha Rock *kopje* — 24 hours a day. Sunset Savanna, Uzima Savanna, Arusha Savanna and Pembe Savanna each offer a spectacular view of wildlife.

A working wildlife reserve, the 74-acre Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge offers opportunities for guests to meet with African cultural representatives and the animal care team. Those Disney cast members are equipped to offer animal spotting tips, conservation information and background on the animals.

Among the many species seen on the four savannas:

- **Ankole-Watusi cattle** An ancient breed once known as the Egyptian Longhorn, it is a medium-sized member of the cattle family with very long horns and a long tail pictured in 6,000-year-old Egyptian pyramids.
- **Blesbok** The blesbok is a hoofed mammal with ridged lyre-shaped horns, found in a protected area of South Africa. It has a short, glossy reddish or purplish coat and a white blaze on its forehead divided by a dark bar between its eyes.
- **Thomson’s gazelle** Also referred to as Tommies, these herbivores are known for their endurance that allows them to escape swift predators such as cheetahs or lions. The small creatures have rich tan skin with black racing stripes on their sides, and males have curved ringed horns.
- **White-bearded wildebeest** Known for traveling in large herds, the wildebeest is a large, high-shouldered antelope with a broad muzzle, an ox-like head and cow-like horns. It can go five days without water and mainly eats grasses and succulent plants. At night, the wildebeest will often sleep in rows, which offer the security of a group while allowing each individual a quick getaway in case of danger.
- **Bongo** Certain populations of this solitary forest dweller have been designated endangered or near threatened. Bright or dark chestnut red, both the male and female bongo have horns that spiral into a complete twist. The bongo can also be seen throughout the evening, browsing in the moonlight.All animals inhabiting the savanna return periodically to an on-site animal care facility for feeding and routine care. Many of the species graze, as well, on savanna plantings that are part of their everyday diet and are continually replenished by horticulturists.Animals populating the savanna of Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge either originated at Disney’s Animal Kingdom theme park or arrived from other accredited zoological facilities. Nighttime viewing of the animals is available to guests with the help of artificial lighting that mimics soft moon-glow, as well as night vision binoculars.

  Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge
  Species List
  (Subject to change)

Mammals:
Ankole-Watusi cattle
Thomson's gazelle
Impala
Blesbok
Giraffe
Greater kudu
Waterbuck
Zebra
Bongo
Wildebeest
Eland

Birds:
African spoonbills
Vulturine guinea fowl
Helmeted guinea fowl
Greater flamingo
East African crown crane
Ostrich
Sacred ibis
Common shelduck
Marabou storks
Blue cranes
Eastern white pelicans

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