

# Wanyama Sunset Safari at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Offers Up-Close Encounters With Exotic Creatures

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – Whispering winds sweep across the balmy, Africa-like plain, a peaceful sanctuary at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. From balconies overlooking the savannas, hotel guests marvel as creatures large and small roam the grasses, forage for food and play in harmony.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge guests can actually enter this serene animal reserve for an up-close personal encounter – thanks to the Wanyama Safari experience.

Just before sunset, adventurers gather outside the lodge with a guide who readies the group for a traditional game-viewing safari. Up to 12 persons can board a specially designed vehicle for a bird's-eye view of a typical North African safari.

Safari-goers are absorbed in careful observation as the vehicle moves along the picturesque savannas that horseshoe the majestic lodge. A pair of female reticulated giraffes from Northern Kenya pause from browsing and gracefully move within feet of the vehicle. Guests' cameras and videos are poised to capture an unforgettable encounter with the tallest of the land mammals.

The safari strives to recreate the essence of an African experience with free-roaming wildlife in an authentic environment.

The hotel's savannas are home to approximately 200 mammals and exotic birds representing a cross-section of the African palette – bongo, greater kudu, zebra, wildebeest, impala, African spoonbills and Eastern white pelicans, to name a few. Even the once-endangered national bird of South Africa, the blue crane, has found a home at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge.

The second part of the journey leads to the resort's signature restaurant, Jiko-The Cooking Place, where a savory South African feast awaits safari-goers. Flavors of Africa fill the air in a memorable meal blending regional spices and grains.

The experience begins with traditional African dips, breads and appetizers. Entrees such as oak-grilled filet of beef and maize-crust Lake Victoria perch with vegetables are served family-style. Popular South African wines are paired with each course, which includes a sweet display of desserts.

The Wanyama Safari is offered to guests (age 8 and up) staying at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge and Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas, seven days a week at 4 p.m. For reservations, guests can call 407/938-4755, or visit the concierge desk at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge upon check-in.

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