



**#BeMoreRhino**

**Some of the amazing  
animals to be found in  
Africa**



# A

## **Aardvark:**

The aardvark is not only one of the first animals on this list, it's also one of the first words in the alphabet! This funny little animal is nocturnal with rabbit-like ears, a long snout with an even longer tongue. It digs with its claws to build a burrow and find food. An aardvark's favourite food is termites and ants.

## **Aardwolf:**

Also an ant-eater, the aardwolf looks more like a hyena and eats harvester termites off the surface rather than digging. The aardwolf can consume up to 300,000 termites in one feeding session. That's a lot of termites!

## **Adders:**

Also known as vipers. The puff adder is one of the most well-known of these venomous snakes.

## **Ant Lions:**

Considered to be one of the Little Five, ant lion larvae (its young) dig pits to trap passing ants. Their larvae are often mistaken for dragonflies.

# B

## **Baboon:**

The Chacma baboon is the fourth biggest primate in Africa. They are omnivorous and may eat prey. A baboon group is called a Troop and there can be up to 100 members. Baboons travel across open plains in a kind of 'battle formation', with the females and youngsters in the middle.

## **Bat-eared fox:**

This enchanting little animal has very large ears used for detecting insect prey by sound.

## **Bats:**

Bats are amazing. These nocturnal animals use 'echolocation' to find their way in the dark by sending out a rapid sequence of high-pitched shrieks whose sound waves bounce off objects, including insect bodies. The bat listens to the echoes with its large ears and can immediately home in on its prey's location. Pretty clever! There are several species of bats in Africa.

## **Black-backed jackal:**

This mammal hunts and scavenges mainly at night but also during the daylight hours. It will eat just about anything, including your lunch! Forages mainly alone but lives in pairs or small family groups.

## B - C

### **Buffalo:**

One of the Big Five, this is Africa's only species of wild cattle. Both male and females have big curved horns on their heads. The herds can be massive, up to thousands. They eat grass and will often travel to hundreds of miles to find it.

### **Bush Baby (Thick-tailed):**

This cute little nocturnal forest-living primate can leap from tree to tree and branch to branch. It can in fact leap a full five metres!

### **Caracal:**

This medium-sized wild cat is very quick and agile when catching its prey. Mainly nocturnal it usually lives alone and favours woodland or scrub.

### **Cheetah:**

This graceful cat has the well-known title of being the fastest land animal in the world. When chasing prey it can reach speeds of up to 70 km/hour. Its streamlined body of small head, deep keel-like chest and long powerful legs make it the champion of the open plains.

## D - G

### **Dolphins:**

Off the coast of Africa you will find three types of dolphins. The bottlenose dolphin swims along the shoreline of east Cape Town, the humpbacked dolphin and common dolphin can both be found in the waters surrounding South Africa's coast. The common dolphin is the smallest type of dolphin in Africa.

### **Elephant:**

One of the Big Five, the amazing elephant is the largest land mammal in the world. In Africa there are two species, the forest and the savannah elephant. Did you know that elephant babies can weigh around 100 kilograms at birth!

### **Fennec Fox:**

This big eared fox is the smallest of its species with a total body length between 24cm and 40cm! Their ears help them detect insects and rodents hiding underground.

### **Giraffe:**

The world's tallest animal that has very distinguishing features, its long neck and legs as well as its patterned coat. Giraffes have horn-like protrusions on their head called ossicones. They give birth standing up and their calves can stand up within half an hour of birth.

# H - I

## **Hippopotamus:**

These awesome semiaquatic mammals are one of the most dangerous animals in the world. Their name comes from an ancient Greek word that translates to mean 'river horse'. The hippo is the third largest land mammal after the elephant and rhino.

## **Hyenas:**

These intriguing animals are in fact most similar to cats and are members of the Feliformia which is a classification for cat-like carnivores. There are three different species of hyena, the spotted, brown and striped hyena. They live in structured groups called clans.

## **Impala:**

One of the most common antelopes found in Africa and can grow up to 95cm tall. Only the males can be found with horns which they use when battling for their territory.

## J - L

### **Jackal:**

The Jackal can be found most active at dawn and dusk. Their long legs and curved canine teeth are well adapted for hunting small mammals, birds and reptiles. They are well-suited for long distance running with large feet and long legs!

### **Klipspringer:**

This small and sturdy antelope can be found in eastern and southern Africa. It can reach up to 60cm in height and weighs in between 8 to 18 kilograms. The coat of the klipspringer is yellowish grey to reddish brown and acts as an efficient camouflage in its rocky habitat.

### **Lion:**

Another of the Big Five, lions are regarded as the 'King of the Beasts' and are the only cats that live in groups, which are called prides. An adult male's roar can be heard up to 8km away. Did you know that a female lion needs to eat around 5kg of meat a day and a male needs slightly more at 7kg! A name for a baby lion is a cub.

### **Leopard:**

This Big Five is one of the most secretive and elusive of the big cats, as well as the most beautiful. Leopards are spectacular hunters and generally most active between sunset and sunrise. It is a solitary and territorial animal.

# M - O

## **Meerkats:**

These wonderful animals are found in the deserts and grasslands of Africa and are unmistakably recognised in their upright posture as they watch out for predators. Meerkats live together in big groups called a mob, gang or clan.

## **Monkeys:**

Africa is home to many species of monkey such as the black-and-white colobus monkey, mandrill, vervet monkey and the five species of baboon. The world's largest monkey, the mandrill, is found in the rainforests of Central Africa.

## **Nyala:**

This is a medium sized antelope whose preferred habitat is that of a deep forest rather than the African plain. A female is warm brown in colour and horn-less; the males are dark skinned with long spiralled horns and a woolly fringe on their belly.

## **Ostrich:**

This largest living flightless bird, can only be found in Africa. An adult male can reach around 9 feet tall and weigh more than 150kgs!

# O - R

## **Otter:**

Otters are semi-aquatic mammals which feed on fish, birds and small mammals. They are also the best swimming teachers out there.

## **Porcupine:**

Porcupines are large and slow rodents. Their body is covered with large, pointy spines or quills which help protect them against predators. They are the third largest of all the rodents in the world!

## **Pangolin:**

Pangolins have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin. They live in hollow trees or burrows and are nocturnal. Their diet consists of mainly ants and termites, which they capture using their long tongues. They are critically endangered and are of the most trafficked mammals in the world.

## **Quelea Quelea:**

This bird is also known as the red-billed weaver and is a small bird from the weaver family. It can be found in Sub-Saharan Africa and is one of the most plentiful wild bird breeds in the world.

# R - T

## **Rhinoceros:**

The majestic rhinoceros is the second largest land mammal in the world, as well as one of the Big Five. The name rhinoceros means 'nose horn' and is often shortened to rhino! These brilliant beasts are known for their awesome giant horns. The two species found in Africa are the white and black rhino. There are less than 30,000 rhino left in the wild due to poaching and habitat loss. Rhino are an umbrella species so protect the rhino and you protect all the other species that share their habitat.

## **Serval:**

The serval is a slender African wild cat with long legs, large ears and a black-spotted orange-brown coat. The Serval is generally found in most parts of Africa and is highly specialised for catching rodents.

## **Topi:**

Topis are highly social and one of the fastest antelopes, reaching a speed of up to 70 km/hour. They are found in the savannahs, semi-deserts and floodplains of sub-Saharan Africa. The Maasai describe them as wearing a suede jacket, blue jeans and yellow boots!!

## U - W

### **Uromastyx:**

These animals are spiny-tailed lizards found in Africa and are active during daylight time. Usually, Uromastyx eat plants or seeds.

### **Vulture:**

In Africa there are 11 species of vultures. Vultures are scavenging birds of prey and are extremely important members of their ecosystem. These birds fly in from huge distances to pick rotting carcasses clean thereby helping to prevent disease outbreaks.

### **Warthog:**

This sturdy African wild pig is one of the Ugly 5 and their heads are covered with large warty lumps on their face and curved tusks. They can be found in grassland, savannah and woodland in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Wildebeest:**

The wildebeest is a large dark African antelope with a long head, a beard and mane and a sloping back. Also called a gnu. They are among the most specialized and successful of African herbivores and are dominant in plains ecosystems.

# X - Z

## **Xeruses:**

These are ground squirrels that live in rocky deserts around Africa. This African animal is well-known for being social and living in groups.

## **Yellow Mongoose:**

Close relatives of Meerkats, Yellow Mongooses are very attentive little creatures, also using a watchman to keep eye on eventual predators, such as birds of prey. They eat insects, small rodents and birds.

## **Zebra:**

Zebras are African equines with distinctive black-and-white striped coats. There are three species found in Africa: the Grévy's zebra, plains zebra and mountain zebra. Their stripes come in different patterns unique to each individual! They can be found in Eastern and Southern Africa in a variety of habitats such as savannahs, grasslands, woodlands, shrublands and mountainous areas.

**Please note that the above list of animals are only a small selection of those that can be found in Africa.**

**There are many more – so why not have a look in books or on the internet to see what other animals you can find which live in Africa!**