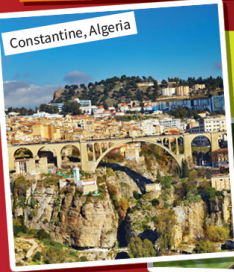


# AFRICA

The African continent is located mainly in the Eastern hemisphere and to the major part in the Northern hemisphere. There are 54 countries in Africa - and 9 territories - with a total of more than 1.1 billion people living on the continent, Africa makes up 15% of the world's total population.



Constantine, Algeria



**LARGEST COUNTRY:** The largest country in Africa is Algeria, which is the tenth biggest country in the world. However, the most populated country in Africa is Nigeria, with a population of more than 185 million people!



Lemurs in Madagascar

**BIGGEST ISLAND:** The biggest island of Africa is Madagascar, located in the Indian Ocean. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world and is famous for its beautiful white sand and crystal clear waters.

**LONGEST RIVER:** The Nile is the longest river in the world coming in at 6,852 kilometres long. The Nile has two sources: The White Nile coming from Lake Victoria in Tanzania and the Blue Nile coming from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.



The Nile River in Egypt

**LANGUAGE:** There is an estimated 2,000 different languages spoken on the African continent! Many Africans speak many African languages and also often another 'European' language. In many countries, people speak English, French or Portuguese as an additional language, as these languages are often used in communication and business. English is spoken widely across Africa. Arabic, the language spoken in northern Africa, is also used as official language.

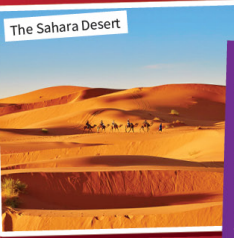


Huts in Ethiopia



**DRIEST DESERT:** The Sahara in northern Africa is the largest hot desert in the world. The Sahara Desert is one of the driest and hottest regions of the world, with the average temperature of 40 degrees Celsius.

The Sahara Desert



**RELIGION:** The majority of African people are Christians and Muslims. In North Africa and many Western African countries, most people follow Islam. There are also almost 10% of Africans that follow traditional religious rituals which means they have traditional healing rituals such as bone-throwing, 'magic' and herbal medicine and celebrating the spirit of their ancestors.



Africa's population is predicted to more than double to 2.3 billion people by 2050.

Did you know that Africa, which covers over 30 million square kilometres, is bigger than the USA, Canada and India together?



Cape Town, South Africa



White Rhinos

**ANIMALS:** In Africa, you will find some of the largest, most magnificent mammals on this planet. Including the largest land mammal, the African elephant, the tallest mammal, the giraffe, and the fastest mammal, the cheetah, which can run with speeds up to 113 kilometres per hour!

Africa is also home to many endangered animals such as the White and Black Rhinoceros.

# ELEPHANTS

There are two main types of elephants: the African elephant and the Indian elephant.

**AFRICAN ELEPHANT:** The African elephant is bigger than the Indian elephant. They are easy to tell apart as the African elephant has larger ears. Both males and females elephants have tusks. The African elephant has wrinkly grey skin, a waved back, and two tips at the end of its trunk that can be used like fingers to pick things up.



Indian Elephant in Udawalawe National Park, Sri Lanka

**INDIAN ELEPHANT:** The Indian, or Asian, elephant is smaller than the African elephant and has smaller ears. The Indian elephant has more of a humped back and only one finger like tip at the end of their trunk. Also, their skin tends to be a lot less wrinkly than the African elephant.

## HOW BIG ARE THEY?

Elephants are truly gigantic animals. Weighing up to a huge 6000 kilograms and measuring up to 3.3 metres tall at the shoulder, the African elephant is the world's largest land mammal. They can eat up to 181 kilograms of food and drink up to 113 litres of water each day!

## WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Elephants have many interesting features including giant ears, long tusks, and a huge trunk. Elephants like to flap their giant ears to cool off during Summer. Their tusks can be up to 3 metres long. Elephants use their tusks to dig or scrape the bark off of trees. Sometimes they use them to defend themselves in a fight. Their tusks continue to grow with them for their entire life.



African Elephant sprays water with its trunk

## THE TRUNK

Elephants use their long trunks to pick up food as small as a blade of grass, but also to pull down tree branches to get to food. Elephants also use their trunk to drink, smell, and suck up water to spray themselves for a bath.

## ARE THEY SMART?

Elephants are considered extremely intelligent. They have very sophisticated social structures and methods of communication. They also are very skilled with tools and can be trained for all different sorts of tasks.

## BABY ELEPHANTS

A baby elephant is called a calf. And like all mammals the babies feed off their mother's milk. They are hairy and usually are between 60 & 90 centimetres tall.



Baby African Elephant



Indian Elephant in Chitwan Nature Park, Nepal

## ARE ELEPHANTS ENDANGERED?

Because of their size and valued ivory tusks, elephants have long been a favourite of big game hunters. Too much hunting has caused the elephant population to sadly decrease rapidly. Elephants are now a protected species throughout the world.

They have poor eyesight, but an amazing hearing ability and sense of smell.

An elephant's skin can be up to 3 cm thick, but it is also very sensitive



The biggest elephant to date weighed 10886 kilograms and was 4 m tall.



Elephants can hear each other's calls up to 8 km away.