

AUG 2020



FOREST PRESERVATION: JUNGLE SAFARIS IN AFRICA

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

FOREST PRESERVATION: JUNGLE SAFARIS IN AFRICA

Forests are called 'lungs of the earth'. This shows the importance of forests. They are the prominent sources of oxygen on earth.

Forests are homes for more than half of the world's land based species of animals, plants, birds and insects. They play an important role in carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change.

A better way to preserve wildlife and forests is by understanding the forests. This can be very well done by organising Jungle Safaris under appropriate guidance. Safari is an over-the-land journey to observe wild animals. It is common and successfully happening in Africa.

Taking a break from our normal busy routines and visiting jungles where animals are living, is a thrilling experience. It is very much interesting to see and understand how the animals live in jungle. They have their own system of harmony within the jungle. African safaris are very much enthralling to visit, stay inside and understand wildlife, owing to the variety of animals they have. Lions and African elephants are the best attractions among all. Nothing less to say about the zebras, giraffes and wild buffaloes. Every animal has its own uniqueness that keeps us wondering about the creation.

The 'Big Five' game animals of Africa – lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo form an important part of the Safari Market. The predominant animals available in a particular forest depend upon the location of the forests. There are different types of African Safaris. They include walking safari, hiking and game-drives.

FOREST PRESERVATION: JUNGLE SAFARIS IN AFRICA



The 'Big Five' game animals of Africa – lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo form an important part of the Safari Market. The predominant animals available in a particular forest depend upon the location of the forests. There are different types of African Safaris. They include walking safari, hiking and game-drives.

The animals live harmoniously in the naturally designed way within their own limitations. Yes, they share the space, water resources and shelters within the same forest. They understand each other's co-living community very well. It will be an eye opener for all of us to understand the life in jungle. We would realise that when animals with varied characters are able to live harmoniously in a defined space, then we would ask ourselves, why we human beings don't live harmoniously with nature and the surrounding community.

FOREST PRESERVATION: JUNGLE SAFARIS IN AFRICA

Protecting forests are imperative in order to maintain biodiversity. Creating reserved and protected forests is one of the prominent ways to protect forests from activities such as deforestation. In the reserved forests, activities like hunting, grazing, etc. are generally banned.

Another method to protect animals is through animal sanctuaries. There are laws and regulations against poaching of animals globally. Wild animals are hunted for various reasons such as, the economic value of the animals' parts, meat, to avoid grazing of crops by the animals, for trading the animals themselves, etc. Tigers are hunted for their striped fur, elephants for its ivory tusks, rhinos for their large horn, musk deer for smell glands, chiru for fine wool, etc. Hunting these animals in an uncontrolled way has led to the decline in their population disturbing the balance in biodiversity.

Tourism in Africa is projected to generate more than 260 billion dollars annually. The funds obtained from tourist safaris are used for the forest maintenance and conservation activities. The fee collected from the African Safaris are spent for the game parks and wildlife centres, protecting the wild areas and inhabitant wildlife.



FOREST PRESERVATION: JUNGLE SAFARIS IN AFRICA

Safari tourism in Africa plays an important role in contributing to the tourism revenue and generating employment opportunities. Photographic safaris are contributing maximum to the economic growth and also offer better job opportunity for the local people. Such safaris also help in establishing the relationship between humans and animals, and the understanding of importance of forests, animals and biodiversity. The safaris have banned the use of plastics and bottles.

All the safari activities are supposed to be carried out without causing disturbance to the animals. Appropriate guidance will be given to the tourists. Special trainings are given for the forest officers and safari guides in protecting the animals as well as the tourists. They are given specific recommendations on various aspects such as ways of dressing up, taking accessories, carrying food materials, driving the vehicle, making noise including talking and playing music system, stopping and getting out from vehicles inside the forests, behaving when a particular animal or group of animals are crossing, moving, resting around, etc. All those advises should be very strictly followed. If you get an opportunity to visit an African safari, never miss it!

