

# Exhalation of the soul

Kenya may be wrestling with its own version of the problems that beset much of Africa, but its vast and beautiful diversity of animals, birds and landscapes continue to inspire and amaze. ▶

*There is something about safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows.*

ISAK DINESEN



*Adopt the pace of nature:  
her secret is patience.*  
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

ANUP SHAH/NATURE PL/DIGITAL SOURCE (2)

**ABOVE** Lesser flamingos crowd the saline waters of Lake Bogoria, the most northerly of the country's Rift Valley lakes.

**OPPOSITE** The Masai Mara National Reserve is not beyond the range extent of the impala, that ubiquitous antelope of Africa, nor that of the red-billed oxpecker.

**PREVIOUS SPREAD** A plains zebra at the base of the Sirian Escarpment in the Masai Mara, the north-western extremity of the annual migration.



*In all things  
of nature there  
is something of  
the marvellous.*  
ARISTOTLE

GREG DU TOIT (2)

**ABOVE** Lions and the Maasai people have a tangled, troubled history, but the Mara region still offers relative sanctuary to about one-third of Kenya's lion population.

**RIGHT** The best of both worlds, Samburu National Reserve combines the semi-arid vegetation that characterises the country's north with lush riparian forests that teem with birds and mammals, including olive baboons.

**OPPOSITE** Nakuru National Park is one of the few protected areas in Kenya that is completely fenced, an investment made to safeguard its reintroduced rhino population.



ANUP SHAH/NATURE PL/DIGITAL SOURCE



ANUP SHAH/NATURE PL/DIGITAL SOURCE



SHEM COMPION

*In wilderness I sense the miracle of life, and behind it our scientific accomplishments fade to trivia.*

CHARLES LINDBERGH



GREG DU TOIT

**ABOVE** In a rising tide of dust and desperation, wildebeest begin to mass in anticipation of a river crossing – the sight that almost every safari-goer wants to witness.

**OPPOSITE, ABOVE** A lesser flamingo in Lake Nakuru National Park tends to its chick.

**OPPOSITE** The elephants of Amboseli National Park are some of the world's most famous (and famously relaxed), having been studied for more than three decades.

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