

Six awesome places to see wildlife up-close

EPIC WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS AT CLOSE RANGE



BY MARGARITA STEINHARDT

Addo Elephant Park South Africa

African elephants are not difficult animals to spot on the savanna, but for a truly close encounter, head to Addo Elephant National Park in South Africa.

The specially-constructed hide near a watering hole gives you a front row seat to one of nature's most majestic sights - families of elephants interacting and caring for their young.

Apart from the elephants, Addo is a good place to see kudu, red hartebeest, eland, buffalo and many small creatures like mongoose and meerkats.

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Kangaroo Island, Australia

Located just off the coast of South Australia, Kangaroo Island is all about wildlife. It is even named after one of its more numerous inhabitants. The most epic wildlife attraction on the island, however, is not the kangaroos, but the breeding colony of the endangered Australian sea lions.

The National Park's rangers offer guided tours that take you right into the heart of the colony. Down on the beach, you can walk among the sea lions as if you are one of their own.

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Kanha Tiger Reserve India

Seeing a tiger in the wild is one of the most iconic wildlife experiences, and one of the best places to see the endangered big cat is Kanha Tiger Reserve. Lying roughly in the middle of India, Kanha is the world of Kipling's Jungle Book, and you can find most of the Jungle Book characters in the park: bengal tiger, sloth bear, jackal, leopard and Indian wolves.

For the best chance of spotting a tiger, visit between March and May, when the forest is dry and tigers tend to stay near the last remaining watering holes.

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Corcovado NP Costa Rica

Stretching across almost a third of the Osa Peninsula on Costa Rica's Pacific coastline, Corcovado National Park protects some of the most endangered wildlife in the country.

After being protected from hunting for over four decades, the animals in the park are endearingly tame and allow for some incredibly close encounters.

Corcovado is the best place to see the endangered Baird's tapir and all four species of Costa Rica's monkeys.

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Almost anywhere along the Pacific Coastlines

Humpback whale migration is one of the most epic wildlife spectacles on earth. Thousands of humpbacks travel between their feeding grounds in the Arctic and in Antarctica and their breeding grounds in the warm tropical waters.

The humpback migration can be witnessed practically anywhere along the Pacific coastlines: Australia, Central America, Canada and the US.

While the whales can often be spotted from the coast, nothing beats seeing a 40-ton giant on a whale-watching cruise.

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Kinabatangan River, Borneo

Of all the wildlife-watching hotspots in Borneo, lower Kinabatangan River is where you are most likely to experience wildlife up close. Surrounded by the oil palm plantations, the forest on the river banks is the safe haven for an incredible variety of wildlife.

It is the best place in the world to see the Critically Endangered Borneo orangutan and proboscis monkey, as well as a number of hornbill species.

A night, keep an eye out for slow loris, western tarsier, or even aa flat-headed cat

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