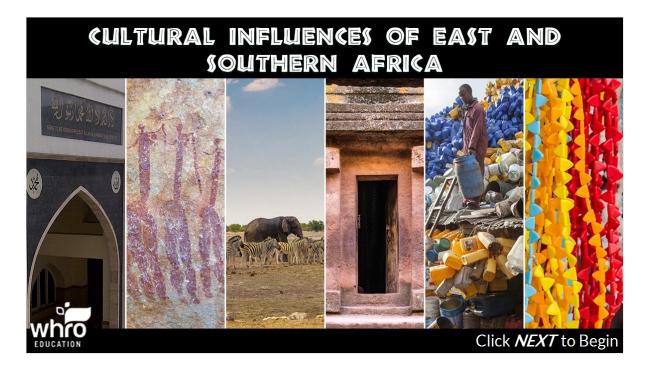
Cultural Influences of East and Southern Africa



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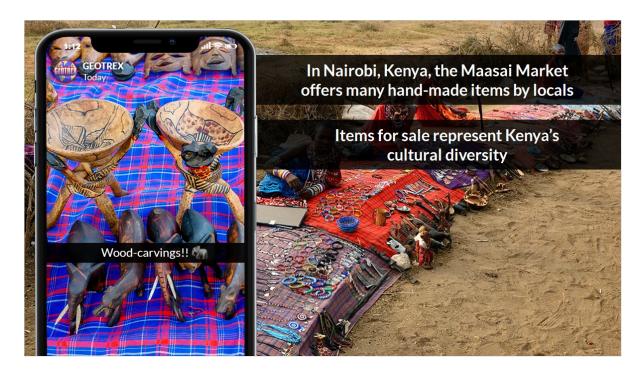
Introduction



Click each image to learn more.



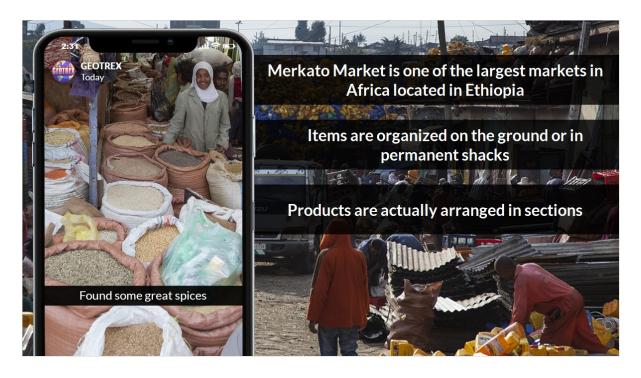
Maasai Market



The Maasai are one of the few African tribes who remained true to their traditional culture. In Nairobi, Kenya, the Maasai Market offers many items hand-made by locals. This includes jewelry, Eastern African prints, colorful clothes and fabrics, and wood-carvings. Items for sale represent Kenya's cultural diversity.



Merkato Market



The Merkato Market in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is one of the largest markets in Africa. It is visually different from many other African markets. Rather than goods organized in stalls or on the ground, vendors keep items in permanent tin shacks. This makes the market look similar to a slum. However, upon closer look, products are arranged in sections, like jewelry, spices, and coffee pots.



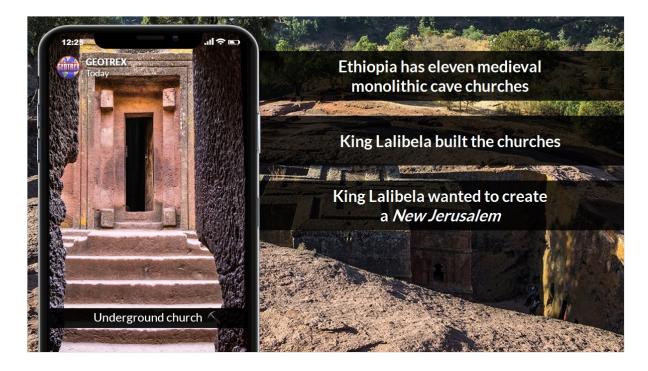
Jamia Mosque



Located in Nairobi, Kenya, the Jamia Mosque is the city's largest mosque and most important religious structure. It was built between 1902 and 1906. The Jamia Mosque has traditional Arabic Muslim architecture. There are three silver domes and two minarets. In addition, the mosque includes marble and inscriptions from the Qu' ran.



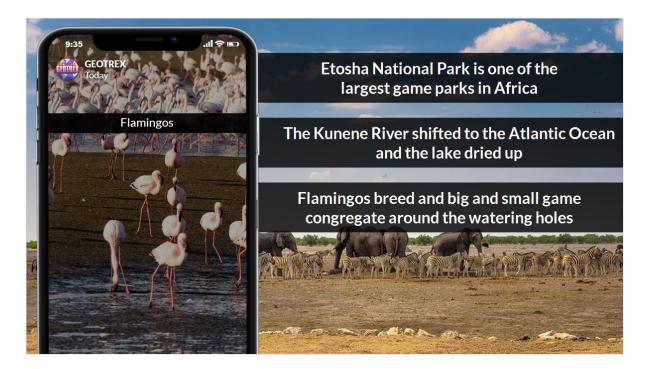
Lalibela's Medieval Rock-Hewn Churches



Since 330, Ethiopia has been a Christian country - possibly the oldest Christian country in the world. Ethiopia has eleven medieval monolithic cave churches from the thirteenth century. They are in the heart of the country, in a mountainous region. The city of Lalibela is a pilgrimage site for Ethiopian Christians. King Lalibela built the churches in the twelfth century. He aimed to create a New Jerusalem after Muslim conquest prevented Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem.



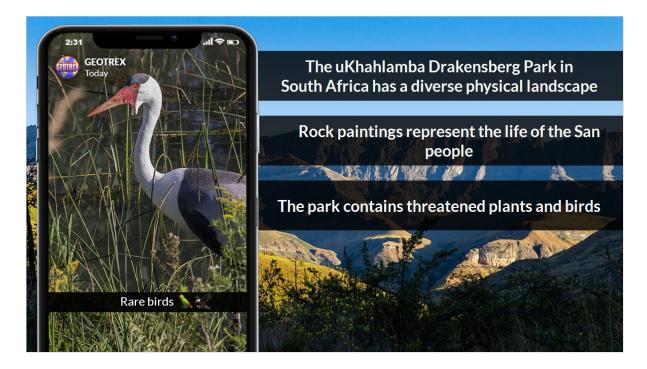
Etosha National Park



Located in a large salt pan in Namibia, Etosha National Park is one of the largest game parks in Africa. The salt pan used to be a deep lake that formed from the Kunene River in Angola. Due to tectonic plate movement, the river's flow shifted to the Atlantic Ocean, causing the lake to dry up and the salt pan to remain. The Etosha Pan is the only mass breeding ground for flamingos in the country. Big and small game congregate around the many waterholes throughout the national park.



uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park



The uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park in South Africa has mountains, valleys, cliffs, and sandstone caves. The park also contains rock paintings that represent the life of the San people, who once lived in this region. The images were painted over four thousand years. They depict the San people hunting, fighting, gathering food, and performing ritual dances. The park also protects many globally threatened species of plants and birds.

