

ATLAS OF RECORD-BREAKING ADVENTURES



WIDE EYED EDITIONS





Europe

Asia

Middle East

Australasia & Oceania



AFRICA

With 54 nations, Africa has the most countries of any continent on Earth. You'll have heard about Africa's record-breaking wildlife, from its huge elephants to its tall giraffes and super-speedy cheetahs. But you'll also find many other record-breakers, from natural marvels such as the world's biggest waterfall to lesser-known wonders like the largest mud building and the most enormous pink lake.

North
Atlantic
Ocean



Ascension Island

St Helena

South
Atlantic
Ocean



RACE AGAINST THE FASTEST LAND ANIMAL, BOTSWANA

All is quiet on the savannah. Under the glare of the hot sun, antelopes and zebras cool off by the waterhole, their tails gently flicking the flies away. But suddenly, the creatures are startled by a flash of movement. A hungry cheetah bounds from her hiding place in the long grass, scattering a herd of impalas. The cheetah has a young impala in her sights, and the pair streak across the landscape, leaving clouds of dust in their wake.

The impala is fast, but the cheetah is faster. In fact, the cheetah is the fastest land animal on the planet, able to reach a top speed of 98 kilometres per hour: more than twice as fast as the quickest human sprinter. When a cheetah is running at full pelt, it can cover seven metres (or the length of an elephant) in a single stride. But the cheetah is not the only record breaker on the African savannah: many creatures here have their own claims to fame.

Weighing up to 150 kilograms, the same as a panda, the ostrich is the world's heaviest bird. It's also the fastest creature on two legs... and it lays the largest eggs!

A cheetah can accelerate from zero to 90 kilometres per hour in just three seconds – faster than the average car.

A cheetah cub has a mane of fur on its back, which makes it look like an aggressive honey badger. This helps ward off attackers.

While sprinting, a cheetah is airborne (with all four paws off the ground) for more than half of the time.

Unlike other cats, the cheetah can't retract its claws. Instead, they grip the ground like running spikes while the cheetah is sprinting, keeping it steady.

Giraffes are the tallest land animals on Earth, with males reaching a lofty 5.8 metres. And their black tongues are huge as well, at lengths of up to 50 centimetres.

The African elephant is the world's heaviest land animal, weighing in at six tonnes, which is about the same as three family cars.



At over a metre long, an elephant's ears are the largest on the planet. Also, with a two-metre trunk, it scoops the prize for the longest nose of any animal.



The cheetah's long tail whips from side to side as it zig-zags through the grass in pursuit of prey. This helps counterbalance the cat, so it doesn't topple over.

