

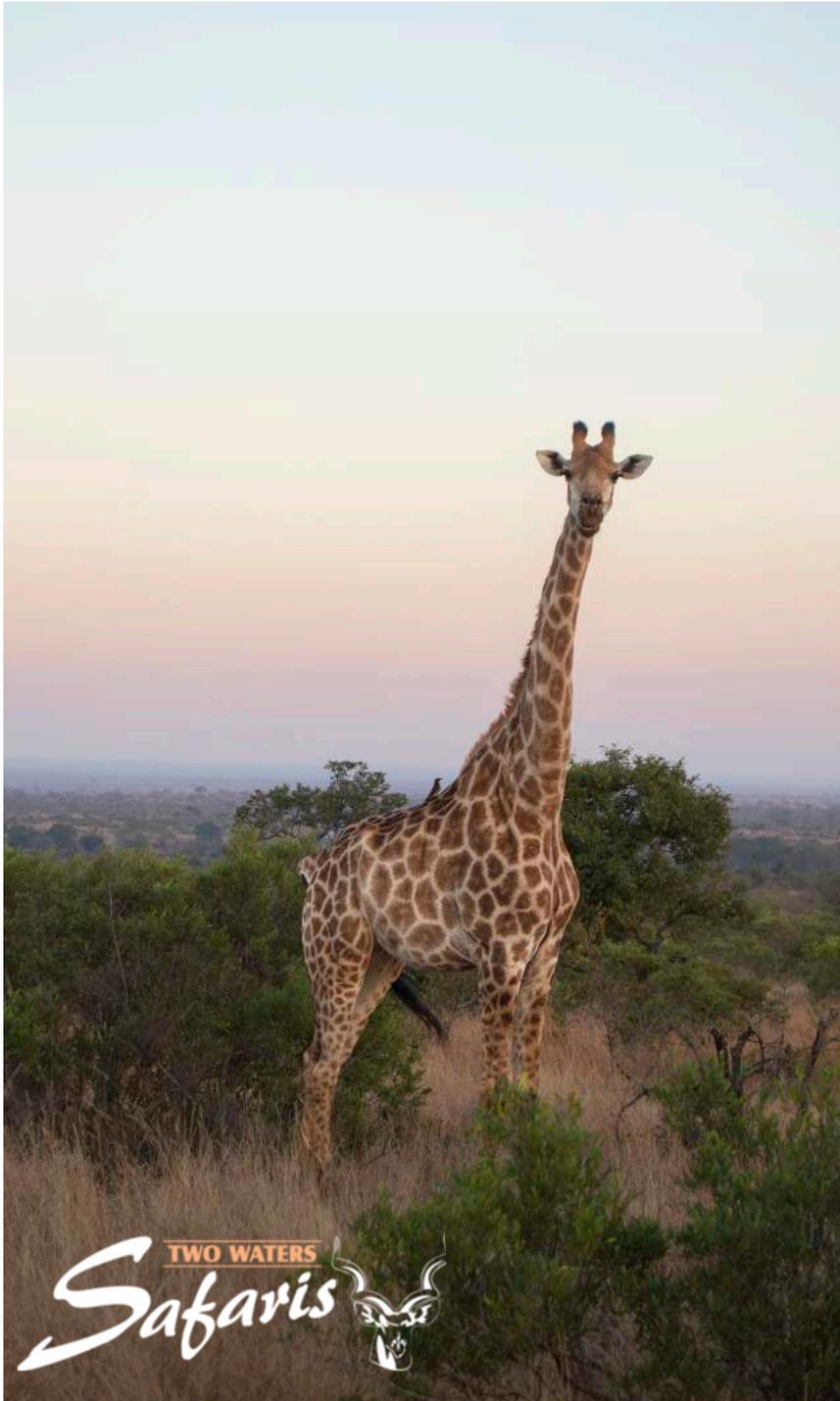


*An African Bedtime Story  
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## When Cheetah Cried

Long ago in South Africa's Eastern Cape, a hunter left his village to find food for his family. As he rested in the bush, he noticed young Impala who had strayed away from the main herd. The hunter prepared to shoot Impala when he noticed Cheetah downwind in the tall grass. In a surprise ambush, Cheetah leapt out of the grass and caught Impala. Impressed by Cheetah's hunting ability, the hunter wished to have his own Cheetah to hunt for him. The hunter watched Cheetah take breakfast to her three cubs and he had an idea. He could take one of the cubs back to the village and train it to hunt for him. When the mom went back for more Impala, the hunter ran over and grabbed a cub. It happened with such ease that he decided to grab all three and take them back to his village. When Cheetah mom returned with more food, she was distraught to find her cubs missing. She cried for hours until the tears made a dark stain down her cheeks. An old man walking in the bush heard Cheetah's cries. He asked her what was wrong and heard the story of her three missing cubs. The old man realized that the three cubs the hunter brought into his village that morning belonged to Cheetah. The old man returned to the village immediately. He admonished the hunter for stealing the cubs and for dishonouring the tribe's hunting traditions of using their own abilities and skills. The old man returned the cubs to the Cheetah mom. She was extremely grateful, but her face remained permanently stained from all of her crying.

*Story adapted from African Folktales.  
Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## Giraffe and Monkey

According to African legend, Giraffe came upon Monkey living in a valley of fruit trees. As Giraffe was eating fruit off the top of a tree, Monkey called out, "Please, sir, don't eat all of our fruit. Monkey said, "We will share some fruit with you if you will share with us." Giraffe wasn't sure about sharing. "What if you don't have anything to give them," he asked Monkey. "Do they still share with you?" Monkey replied, "Of course. Friends share with friends." Giraffe thought sharing might work for Monkey, but as the tallest animal in the world, he didn't need to share. That evening, a frightening storm passed through the valley. Giraffe hid under a tree, but before long, lightning struck the tree. A large branch broke and fell on Giraffe's neck, knocking him to the ground. When Giraffe came to, he could not raise his long neck. Soon Giraffe was hungry but he could not reach the fruit at the top of the tree. He saw Monkey and asked him to share his food. Monkey reminded Giraffe that he said he did not need to share. Now Monkey did not need to share. As Giraffe walked away, he had an idea. He saw berry bushes along the ground. The berries were too small for him to eat, but he gathered them up and carried them to Monkey. He called out to Monkey, "Friend, I have something to share with you." Monkey enjoyed the berries and quickly climbed up the tree and threw fruit and leaves to the ground for Giraffe to eat. In time, Giraffe's neck healed and he could again eat fruit from the treetops. He decided to stay in the valley near Monkey and they shared many meals.

*Story adapted from African Folktales.*

*Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **How Elephant Got His Trunk**

According to African legend, Elephant didn't used to have a trunk. He had a big, black nose that could wiggle side-to-side, but was otherwise useless. One day, little Elephant Calf was born. He was not like the other elephants. For he was very, very curious. He wondered why Giraffe had a long, long neck and spotty skin. He wondered why Lion had a big mane and roared. He wondered why Sun lived in the sky. Little Elephant was always asking questions. One day, he came across a Kolokolo bird and asked, "What does Crocodile eat for dinner?" Kolokolo, in his mournful cry, replied, "Go to the banks of the great grey-green greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees, and find out." So Elephant Calf left to find out. When he finally reached Limpopo River, Elephant Calf came across a creature he had never met. He had short legs, a long tail and was covered with leathery skin. Elephant Calf asked him, "Do you know what the crocodile eats for dinner?" The creature winked one eye and beckoned Elephant Calf closer. When Elephant Calf bent down, the creature quickly snapped and caught elephant calf by his black nose and replied, "I think today I shall eat Elephant." Elephant Calf tried to pull away. Crocodile tried to pull too. Elephant's nose stretched and stretched until Crocodile finally let go. Elephant quickly dragged his nose back home and hoped that it would shrink, but it never did and so that is how Elephant got his trunk.

*Story adapted from African Folktales and The Elephant's Child by Rudyard Kipling. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## How Leopard Got His Spots

Long ago in Africa, Elephant ruled as king. Elephant King had a very important rule. None of the animals in his kingdom were to eat flesh, only fruit and grasses. This rule kept all of the animals friends. There were no enemies in the land of the Elephant King. This was not the case in other, nearby lands. One day, hungry Leopard from a neighboring kingdom entered the land of the Elephant King. Leopard was very hungry. He was small, but very stealthy. Leopard used his claws to climb silently onto an acacia tree branch and wait for a meal. Soon, Hare passed below the acacia tree, unaware of Leopard on the branch above. Before hare knew what happened, he found himself gripped between Leopard's teeth, crying out for help. Fortunately, Elephant King heard Hare's cry. He lifted his long trunk toward the sky and trumpeted out a deafening call. All of the animals in the kingdom heard this call and raced to help. Leopard also heard the call. It startled him so much that he opened his mouth and Hare slipped away into the bush. Elephant King arrived and tossed Leopard into a pond. He angrily told Leopard, "In my kingdom, we do not eat other animals. We only eat fruits and grasses." Leopard, an excellent swimmer, made his way to the shore. He told Elephant King, "I was only playing with Hare. I only eat fruit and grass and honeycomb." Wise Elephant King decided to offer Leopard some honeycomb. He tossed a piece across the pond and Leopard leapt and caught it. As Leopard bit into the honeycomb, bees stung his mouth and neck. Leopard yowled in pain as the bees continued to sting him all over. The bees buzzed, "You tried to hurt hare and we will teach you a lesson you will never ever forget." Leopard retreated home. Over the next few days, a spot appeared in every place the bees had stung him. When Leopard's children were born, they too, had spots, as does every Leopard born since.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **How the Lion Got His Mane**

Long ago, when Cape Buffalo was King of the Bush, none of the African lions had a mane. All of the animals, including Lion feared Buffalo. One day, Lion was sleeping under a tree when Buffalo walked past ready to attack. Lion awoke and begged for mercy. In exchange for his life, Lion promised to serve Buffalo. Now, Buffalo was a very lazy King and he happily agreed to spare Lion so that he could hunt for him. Every day, Buffalo would relax at the watering hole while Lion went out to hunt. While Lion was hunting for Buffalo, his family grew very, very hungry. Lion asked Buffalo if he could hunt for his starving family one day. Buffalo grew very angry and placed a wreath of porcupine quills around Lion's neck. Buffalo then ordered him off to kill one of every animal in the bush for him. With the porcupine wreath around his neck, Lion looked very impressive and imposing, but he could no longer hunt. Lion made his way back to his starving family at home. The Lionesses were furious at Buffalo. They told Lion to stand guard and protect the pride. The Lionesses stalked the Buffalo and killed him, providing food for their family. To this day, Cape Buffalo no longer eat meat, Lionesses do the hunting and Lions wear an impressive mane.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **How Lion Got Its Roar**

According to legend, lions couldn't roar thousands of years ago. Because they could not roar, they could not be king. Little Lion Cub longed to roar like Tiger. "Why can't we roar like tigers?" the cub asked his mother. The cub's mother replied, "Tigers can roar because they stole their roar from a giant monster. If you want to roar, you have to steal a giant monster's voice." So cub headed into the jungle to find a roaring monster. It wasn't long before he heard a loud roar coming from a monster inside a cave. Cub snuck into the cave and bit the monster. When the monster roared in pain, Cub collected the roar in a jar and ate a little. The monster tried to catch Little Cub so he opened his mouth and roared. He roared so loudly, that he scared the monster into pieces. Proud Little Lion went home to show his mother. His mother was very surprised and impressed with her little cub. She then took his jar and shared the roar with all the other lions in the jungle.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **The Monkey's Heart**

There once was a Jackalberry tree on the banks of the Crocodile River. A little vervet monkey played in its branches and enjoyed its ripe fruit. One day, Monkey walked onto a branch that stretched over the river. As she sat on the limb and enjoyed her eenyandi fruit, Crocodile called up from the river, "Please, Monkey, my friend, share some eenyandi with me." Crocodile was very pleased with the fruit that Monkey dropped to him. This continued for many weeks. One day, Crocodile invited Monkey to come down to the river for a ride on his back. It was a very hot day, so Monkey decided to go. Monkey enjoyed riding on her friend's back through the cool waters. When they were far upstream, Crocodile looked at Monkey and said, "Crocodile Queen is very ill and must eat a monkey heart to get well." Monkey was terrified, but calmly replied, "You should have said that before we left, for I didn't bring my heart with me." Crocodile listened as Monkey explained that monkeys hide their hearts in the branches of big trees during daytime. She told Crocodile, "I am your friend, so I would gladly help to save your queen, but you would need to take me back to the tree to get my heart." Crocodile quickly swam back to the tree with monkey. When they arrived, Monkey climbed back into the tree. Crocodile waited for her to return with her heart. He waited and waited. Eventually, Monkey climbed onto the branch and yelled down to Crocodile, "My heart has always been in my body you fool! Go away! We will never be friends again!" And with that, clever Monkey hit Crocodile with a big rotten eenyandi.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **Penguin Finds His Family**

On a mountain top many years ago, a rock pigeon found a large egg. She did not recognize the egg and wondered how it got on top of the mountain. Ostrich said the egg was much too small to belong to her. Fish Eagle was impressed with the large egg, but said it wasn't hers. Cape Teal said her eggs are cream colored, so it couldn't be hers. They all wondered if the mysterious egg even belonged to a bird. They asked Tortoise, but the egg didn't belong to her either. As the birds and Tortoise watched, the egg cracked open. A little slate blue chick popped out. Chick met many animals on the mountain. He asked each one, "Are you my mom?" The reply was always, "no." Chick struggled down the mountain and came across Baboon. Baboon looked at him and laughed, "why don't you fly, you silly bird?" Chick saw the birds soaring above so he flapped his wings, ran and jumped, but he could not fly. Chick came across Zebra eating grass. He was hungry so he ate some grass. Grass tasted horrible. Zebra looked at Chick's webbed feet and pointed toward Seagull Island. When Chick reached the ocean, he felt happy. He dove in and swam out to an island where he met brown waddling creatures. He asked them if they were seagulls. "No, we are seals," they replied. "Are you lost, little Penguin?" they asked. "Penguin?" little Chick replied. "I am a penguin?" The Seal told Chick to hop on his back and they swam to a white beach with boulders to find hundreds of penguins. Finally, Penguin Chick was home.

*Story adapted from African Folktales and The Brave Little Penguin: A Tale from South Africa by Andrea Florens.*

*Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## **Why Rhino is Bad-Tempered**

Long ago, Giraffe did not have a long neck, but looked more like Kudu. During a bad drought, the watering holes dried up and the grasses became bitter. All of the animals were very, very hungry. Giraffe and his friend Rhino walked across the grasslands in search of food and water. They looked toward the sky and saw luscious leaves on the treetops. Rhino tried to stand up on his hind legs to reach the leaves but he was much too heavy. Giraffe tried to stretch his neck up to reach the leaves. As Giraffe strained and stretched unsuccessfully, Rhino rolled over laughing. Rhino thought Giraffe looked ridiculous. Giraffe got angry at Rhino for laughing at him, so he turned and ran off toward the river. As he was running away, Giraffe was stopped by an old man who asked Giraffe why he was so upset. Giraffe told the old man about the tasty leaves and his friend, Rhino, laughing at him. The old man told Giraffe that he had a special herb that would make Rhino regret laughing at him. Giraffe happily ate the herb. Suddenly, Giraffe felt strange. The ground seemed to stretch below his legs. His head and neck started to tingle. He grew very dizzy, so he closed his eyes. When he opened them, he saw luscious leaves at the top of the trees. Giraffe was busy feasting on tasty leaves when Rhino approached. Rhino barely recognized his friend, but Giraffe greeted him. Rhino called up to Giraffe, “Wow friend, look at you! Please won’t you break off some leaves and drop them down to me?” Giraffe paused, burst into laughter and returned to munching leaves. Rhino turned and walked away, still hungry and now angry. To this day, Rhino is still hungry and still in a bad mood.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



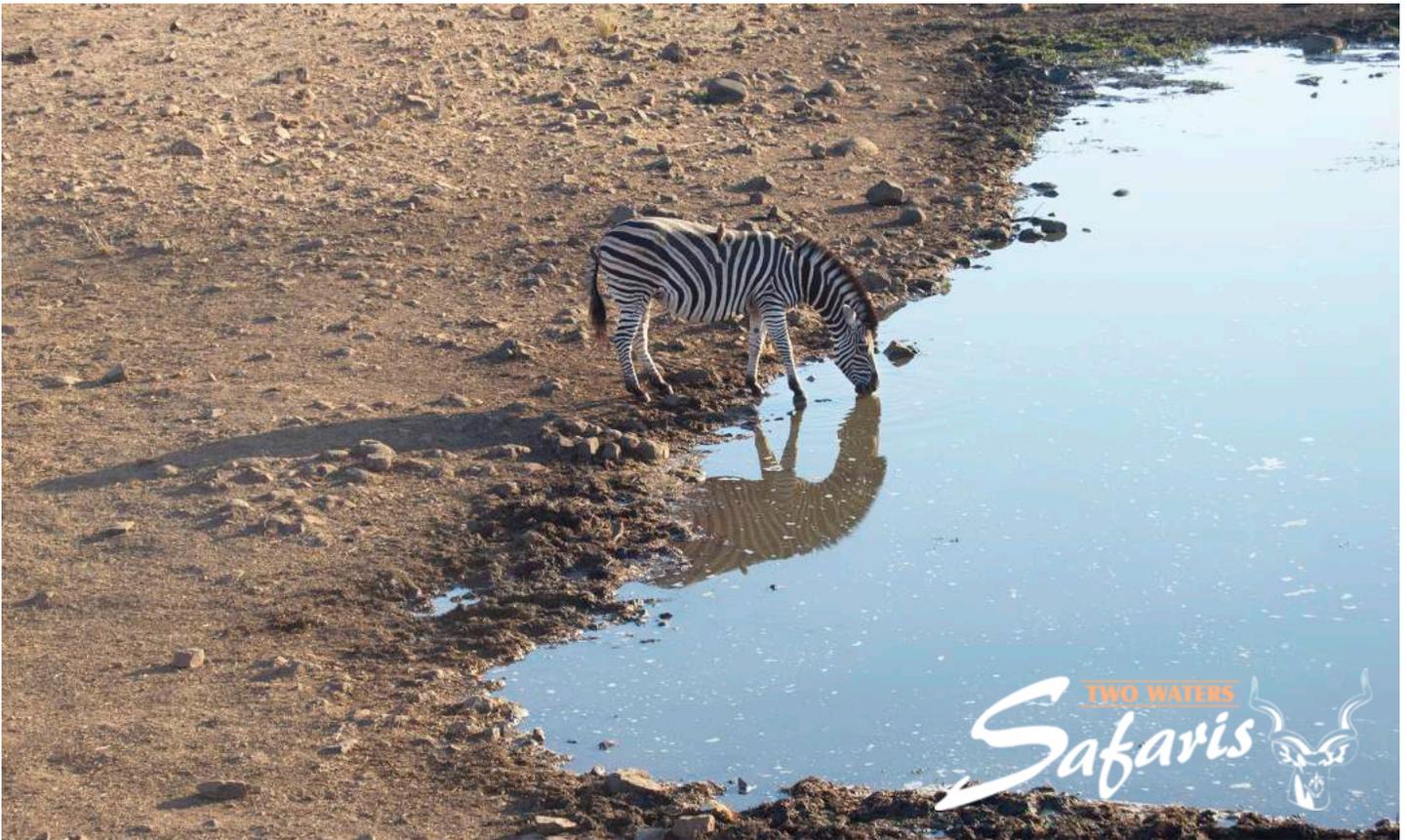
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## **Why Sun and Moon Live in the Sky**

Long ago, Sun and Water lived on earth together as great friends. Sun would often visit Water, but Water never visited Sun. Sun asked his friend, Water, why he never visited him. Water explained that Sun's house was not big enough for water and his friends to visit. Sun really wanted water to visit so he promised to build a house large enough for Water and his friends. Sun returned home to his wife, Moon, and told her about his plan to build a house large enough for Water and his friends to visit. Sun and Moon soon completed building a very large house. Sun invited Water to visit. Water arrived at Sun and Moon's door and asked if he could come in. "Yes, my friend, come in," Sun replied. Water opened the door and started to flow in, followed by the fish and water animals. In no time, Water and his friends filled the house knee-deep. Water thought maybe Sun and Moon's house wasn't large enough. But, Sun and Moon said it was still safe to enter. When Water and his friends filled the house to the top of the door, they continued to enter. Soon, Sun and Moon had to sit on top of their roof. When Water overflowed the rooftop, Sun and Moon retreated into the sky...and they have been there ever since.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*



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## How Zebra Got Its Stripes

Long ago, an angry baboon left his home in the trees to live on the banks of the Nukakamma River. He told all of the other animals that he now ruled the land and only he could drink from the river. One day, a young zebra stallion was so thirsty he decided to go to the river to drink. Zebra was very brave and pure white like all of the zebras in early days. As Zebra neared the river, Baboon yelled at him to leave. Zebra refused. Baboon charged at Zebra, baring his sharp teeth. Zebra fought back. The fight was long and vicious, but Zebra was finally able to use his hooves to kick Baboon flying high into the rocky cliffs. Baboon landed hard on his backside. The impact left him with a hairless behind that reminds baboon of his battle to this day. The power of Zebra's kick caused him to stumble backwards and he fell into the Baboon's fire. Zebra bolted out of the blazing fire, but the burning logs had scorched him, leaving black stripes all over his white coat. Since that day, baboons and their bare bottoms have been banished to the rocky cliffs and zebras proudly wear their stripes and come down from the plains to drink at the river whenever they please.

*Story adapted from African Folktales. Photo by Neva Knoll, Two Waters Safaris guest.*