# INSTANT EXPERT

A travel professionals guide to East Africa

# Abercrombie & Kent



### There is travel and there is travelling with Abercrombie & Kent.

It seems only fitting that Geoffrey Kent, born on safari, should himself have played a parenting role in the creation of the luxury safari when he helped found Abercrombie & Kent in 1962.

In the land that has been our home for almost half a century, the Kent family was the first to offer guests an intimate, private look at the wilds of East Africa. We delved into pristine wilderness to set up luxury camps – previously unimaginable in Africa, and we offered our guests services equal to a five-star resort, making them feel at home.

Over fifty years later, we are still pioneers of the quintessential African safari. Our choice of itineraries range from an introductory journey to East Africa or an insider's look at remote regions of Kenya and Tanzania, to one of the most exhilarating wildlife experiences – tracking some of the world's last remaining population of mountain gorilla in their natural habitat in Uganda and Rwanda. We offer a wide range of family holidays, active jaunts (perhaps a climb up Kilimanjaro?), pre-arranged itineraries in our Private Travel Collection, or customized itineraries for those who wish to travel independently.

Whether you are considering your first journey to Africa or a repeat visit to the land you have come to love, trust your safari with the one name synonymous with Africa: Abercrombie & Kent.

Challen here

Geoffrey Kent Founder & Co-Chairman





## Abercrombie & Kent in East Africa

### **KNOWLEDGE IS KEY**

We send our Tour Consultants on a minimum of two product trips a year to ensure that they are fully up to date on all the properties, logistics and activities in our destinations to ensure we can offer you the best information for your clients.

#### **SAFARIS WITH A DIFFERENCE**

Our product team are always working to add to our unique Insider Access activities guaranteeing a totally unique safari for your clients with unmatched experiences.

#### NO CREDIT CARD FEES

When your guests are paying for their safari we do not apply any credit card fees to our bookings.

#### **WORKING WITH YOU**

As a Destination Management Company we will never work directly with your client ensuring that your relationship with them is never compromised. In addition we have the highest level of public liability insurance which safeguards you against any legal action.

#### CONTACTABLE 24 HOURS A DAY

If your guests flight has been delayed or cancelled or there is an emergency you can contact us any time of day or night and there is always a Senior Manager on duty to make decisions quickly and efficiently.

#### **ON THE GROUND**

We have a total of six offices across the four countries; we are there to help you and your guests should any issues arise - we do not rely on third party suppliers.

#### **COMPLETE CARE**

Guests are met at the airport by an A&K Guardian Angel who will be their contact and concierge whilst they are in the country. The guardian angels will be there for every city transfer, ensuring that guests are fully briefed for their safari and if something happens (anything from replacing a lost pair of glasses to organizing emergency evacuations) the Guardian Angles will be there for them ensuring a stress free safari.

#### **VIP MEET & GREET**

We are able to organize VIP meet and greet in most East Africa airports and fast track your guests through customs & immigration.

#### **OUR GUIDES**

Guides are an essential component of every safari and can make or break a guests experience. This is why our guides not only have their national certifications but also undergo annual training sessions covering a range of subjects from refreshers on the flora and fauna to the customs of different nationalities.

#### COMMUNICATION

Learning about the natural world is a key part of every safari and this is why we have guides fluent in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Chinese so that your guests are easily able to communicate with them and get the most out of their experience.

#### **OUR VEHICLES**

Breaking down on safari is not an experience anyone wants. This is why we own and maintain our own fleet of vehicles in each country. Each vehicle is lovingly cared for by our team of mechanics; we are constantly innovating and making our vehicle more comfortable by adding reclining seats, refrigerators, Wi-Fi and more.

### **A&K PHILANTHROPY**

Giving back to the communities and wildlife that live in and around the beautiful parks and reserves of East Africa is an essential element of what we do. Your guests can experience many of the projects that we are involved with on their journey - these often become their most treasured memories.



Kenya sits astride the equator and is a year-round destination offering a unique combination of wildlife, white sandy beaches, awe-inspiring scenery, a wonderful climate and very hospitable people.

When to go: All year round Best value months: March - mid June & November mid December Climate: Tropical Capital city: Nairobi Health requirements: Yellow Fever Vaccination & anti-malarial medication.

#### NAIROBI

Nairobi is a fun, vibrant city and the perfect place to start a safari. Must see sights include visiting the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, the Giraffe Centre, the Karen Blixen Museum or the Ocean Sole Workshop. There are also some amazing shopping opportunities in the city which is a great way to end any safari.

#### NORTHERN KENYA

In the north of Kenya resides the Aberdare National Park which is the home of forest elephants and tree top hotels. Further north the silhouette of Mount Kenya provides a dramatic backdrop for the private conservancies that make up the Laikipia region. These include Lewa Downs, Borana, OI Pejeta, Loisaba, Segera, OI Jogi, Enasoit, OI Malo and more. Each of the conservancies are privately owned and managed and feature an array of activities for your guests to experience including day and night game drives, horse riding, camel rides and bush walking safaris. These conservancies are at the forefront of rhino conservation in East Africa and one of the best places to see them.

Meru National Park lies to the east; it also features a rhino sanctuary and only has one property within its borders.

Just to the north are the semi-arid national reserves Samburu and Shaba. They are home to elephants, oryx and the Grevy's zebra as well as stunning scenery bisected by the main river.

Beyond this lies the Northern Frontier District - famous for Lake Turkana and some of mans oldest remains including the 'Turkana Boy'.



### A&K in Kenya

#### SOUTH EASTERN KENYA

South Eastern Kenya is dominated by the Tsavo East and West National Parks; expanses of semi-arid land which are traversed by the famous elephant herds of Tsavo.

Amboseli National Park lies on the border of Kenya and Tanzania and under the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. This park affords the best view of the worlds tallest free standing mountain.

In between Tsavo and Amboseli lies the **Chyulu Hills National Park**. The park is an essential wildlife corridor linking Tsavo, Amboseli and Kilimanjaro National Parks and can be explored in a vehicle, on foot, by bicycle or on horseback.

#### **GREAT RIFT VALLEY**

This geographic feature is 6,000 kilometers (3,730 miles) long and stretches from Jordan to Mozambique. In Kenya it is home to a series of lakes the most notable being Lake Nakuru, Lake Elementaita and Lake Naivasha. Between them these lakes are home to over 340 species of birds including pink flamingoes. There are also lots of things to do including game drives, walking safaris, boat rides, golfing and hiking Mount Longonot.

#### MASAIMARA

The Masai Mara National Reserve is Kenya's best known park and famous for the great wildebeest and zebra migration which generally is in residence from June to October. However the park is home to a plethora of wildlife and provides some of Africa's best game viewing all year round.

#### THE KENYAN COAST

The Kenyan Coast features stunning beaches—some of which have been voted best in the world time and time again. At the northern tip is Lamu Island which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and will take your guests back in time. There is only one car on the island and the principal form of transport is by boat or donkey.

South of Lamu lie the towns of **Malindi, Watamu** and **Diani** which all feature pristine beaches and protected marine parks that make for wonderful snorkeling trips. Kite surfing, stand up paddle boarding and other activities are also available. The main costal city of **Mombasa** also has an array of beaches in addition to interesting sites such as Fort Jesus, the Bamburi Nature Park and dinners on a dhow (a traditional Arab sailing boat).

#### A&K PRIVATE MOBILE CAMP

When Geoffrey Kent first started Abercrombie & Kent he had nothing but a few tents and a silver sterling ice bucket. Your guests can still experience this today with the high level of service and care that A&K is known for. We have sites in some of the most remote and stunning parts of the country that will ensure your guests receive a totally exclusive experience on their safari.

Our mobile tents have a king or two twin beds, solar lighting, en-suite bathrooms with running water in the sinks and a porcelain flushing toilet. They feature a traditional safari shower that is filled morning and evening by the personal tent butler. There is a lounge and dining area that comes with a full complement of staff to see to your guests every need. This experience will transport them back to the Hemmingway's safari days but with the modern amenities that we need today.



Scenic helicopter flights in Northern Kenya add a unique element to a safari. Our favourites are a flight over Lake Turkana with a visit the Pokot Tribe for an authentic cultural interaction and flying up Mount Kenya for a morning of fly fishing with a picnic breakfast • A night fly camping will bring your guests that much closer to Kenya's nature and can be done in Northern Kenya and the Masai Mara.





### A&K in Tanzania

Tanzania is a country of geographical extremes – from snow-capped peaks and rolling savannahs to beautiful coral reefs. It is a year round destination that boasts a unique range of wildlife from the great wildebeest migration in the Serengeti to the chimpanzees in the Mahale Mountains.

When to go: All year round Best value months: April - mid June & November - mid December Climate: Tropical Capital city: Dodoma Health requirements: Anti-malarial medication, Yellow Fever Vaccination

#### THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT

The Northern Circuit is made up of some of East Africa's most iconic wildlife areas and the best known national parks. The logistics are great with a good road network making this an ideal place for first time visitors to the country.

Arusha is the main town in the area and considered Tanzania's safari capital. Guests will land at Kilimanjaro International Airport for the start of their safari. There are lots of activities here from canoeing in Arusha National Park to visiting the Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy Project - Ilboru School which was build for children living with hearing or intellectual impairments.

Tarangire National Park is just 120 Kilometers (75 miles) from Arusha on a good tarmac road. The park is famous for its groves of ancient baobab trees and huge herds of elephants. The permanent marshes make it a must see destination in the dry season.

At the bottom of the Great Rift Valley lies Lake Manyara National Park. There are lots of activities available like the tree canopy walkway, canoeing, walking safaris and visiting the local village.

The **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the crater is the largest caldera in the world and is home to approximately 30,000 animals - lion, hyena, elephant and rhino sightings are common. The Olduvai Gorge lies on the road that connects Ngorongoro to the Serengeti; it is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world.

The Serengeti National Park makes up the lions share of the Serengeti - Mara eco-system and is roughly the size of Belgium. The great wildebeest migration, which is approximately two million strong, traverse these vast plains as they follow the rains in a never ending cycle. It is also home to a huge range of other species and lion, leopard and cheetah sightings are frequent.

#### THE WESTERN & SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

The Southern Circuit has far less visitors but wildlife sightings are as spectacular as those in the north and enhanced by the sense of exclusivity that your guests can experience in these parks.

The Mahale Mountains run along the shores of Lake Tanganyika and is one of the most remote and stunning areas of Tanzania. The forested mountain range is home to some of Tanzania's last chimpanzee families and tracking them is a unique experience. The forest ends on the sandy shores of the crystal clear lake (longest freshwater lake in the world and the second deepest) that offers a variety of activities such as kayaking and fishing expeditions.

In Katavi National Park your guests will see the biggest herds of buffalo in the country. In the dry season the smaller rivers shrink to a trickle and the competition for water becomes fierce. Your guests could witness battles between the parks largest creatures - elephants, buffalo and hippos - for this scarce and vital resource.

Ruaha National Park lays claim to the biggest herds of elephants in the country and boasts just five percent of the visitor numbers that the Serengeti receives in a year. This stunning park is now much more accessible with daily flights linking it to the Serengeti and Arusha making it an easy extension.

The **Nyerere National Park** (formally the Selous Game Reserve) boasts a diverse range of wildlife and unique activities. Your guests can explore the park by car, on foot and by boat making this a excellent destination for the more active traveler.

#### ZANZIBAR & THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS

Zanzibar, also known as the Spice Island, makes the perfect finale to any safari. The island is famed for its beautiful white sandy beaches and clear warm waters. There are also a variety of activities on the island - the tour of Stone Town is something every guest should do and will provide them with a view into the islands colorful, and sometimes dark, past.

Pemba Island is Zanzibar's little sister but far quieter and less crowded. The island only has three hotels to choose from giving guests a level of exclusivity rarely found on Zanzibar. It also has some of the worlds best dive sites. Mafia Island lies south of Zanzibar and has the longest whale shark watching season anywhere in the world. These magnificent creatures can be seen from October through to February each year.

#### CLIMING KILIMANJARO WITH A&K

Climbing Kilimanjaro is often the dream of a lifetime. We are proud to say that 98% of our guests summit the mountain–way more than the mountain average of 60%. We also ensure that our porters are properly treated, both on and off the mountain and have the highest porter to guest ratio of any operator. We have three different climbing specifications to fit in with your guests budget - Lightweight, Luxury and VIP versions.



Enhance your guests experience in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area with an A&K Insider Access Crater Rim Walk finished with a sundowner Learn to cook like a Tanzanian in the village of Mto wa Mbu or take a local form of transport in a Tuk Tuk • Visit the new A&K Philanthropy bike shop in the village of Karatu and meet the women behind the project.





### A&K in Uganda

Uganda's natural beauty led Winston Churchill to refer to her as the 'Pearl of Africa.' The landscape boasts a mixture of habitats from forests, lakes, plains to semideserts and mountains. Uganda is famous for its primate species, including chimpanzees and the endangered mountain gorillas in Bwindi.

When to go: All year round Best value months: April - mid June & November - mid December Climate: Tropical Capital city: Kampala Health requirements: Yellow Fever Vaccination

#### ENTEBBE

This is the main access point for all Ugandan safaris. There are a variety of activities available including visits to Ngamba Island - a Jane Goodall chimpanzee sanctuary, sundowner cruises on Lake Victoria or a behind the scenes tour of the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre.

#### KIBALE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

This national park boasts the highest concentration of primates in the world and is the best place to see chimpanzees in Uganda. There are two tracks a day through the forest that last anywhere from an hour to four hours.

MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK The largest of Uganda's parks, Murchison Falls is bisected by the Nile and is home to a variety of wildlife. There are a range of activities available here: game drives, walking up the waterfalls, sundowner cruises and fishing from boats on the mighty river.



#### QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Queen Elizabeth National Park has a variety of habitats - from the jungle in the Kyambura gorge home to semi-habituated chimpanzees, to the lakes George and Edward and the open savannah plains. Here your guests will be able to see a variety of wildlife including the famous tree climbing lions of Ishasha.

#### BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

This national park encompasses one of the last remaining habitats of the endangered mountain gorillas and is home to half of the worlds surviving population. Tracking is a year-round activity and only eight guests are allowed to visit each habituated gorilla family each day making this one of the most exclusive wildlife activities in the world.

#### JINJA

Jinja is known as the adrenaline capital of East Africa. The city sits at the source of the River Nile near Lake Victoria and is best known for its thrilling white water rapids. However there are a variety of other activities that your guests can indulge in from bungee jumping, to exploring the area on quad bikes (ATVs) or walking through the villages and farmlands.

#### KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Kidepo lies on the northern most border of Uganda and is the countries wildest, and least visited, national park. Guests visiting this park will not only experience a variety of wildlife - almost on their own - but they will also have unique cultural interactions with little known tribes such as the Ik and the Karamojong.





Enhance your guests experience in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest with a visit to the bike shop, nursing school and hospital that are supported by A&K Philanthropy and give them a deeper connection to the people that live in this remote jungle • For guests who want to dive deeper into the gorilla tracking experience book them on a habituation track with the gorilla researchers where they get to spend four hours with these incredible creatures instead of the usual one hour.





### A&K in Rwanda

Rwanda is one of Africa's smallest countries and one of the most resilient. Also known as 'the land of a thousand hills' this stunning landlocked country features mountains, lakes, forests and open savannah; it will reward visitors with an eclectic mix of wildlife, exciting adventures and superb hospitality.

When to go: All year round Best value months: April - mid June & November - mid December Climate: Tropical Capital city: Kigali

Health requirements: Please check with your General Practitioner

#### KIGALI

Kigali is a clean, vibrant city and the main access point for all visitors to Rwanda. There are a wide range of activities available here for your guests including a visit to the Genocide Memorial (not to be missed), cooking classes and some fantastic shopping opportunities.

#### AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

Akagera is Rwanda's only 'savannah' park and guests visiting this park will experience a variety of habitats including low mountains, savannah bushland, swamps and rivers. There are numerous species of wildlife that reside in the park and in 2017 20 black rhinos were relocated into the park from South Africa after a 10 year absence. Guests can explore the park by car, boat or on foot and there are a range of exciting cultural interactions to participate in.

#### NYUNGWEFOREST NATIONAL PARK

On the southern border of Rwanda lies the Nyungwe Forest - the most well preserved montane forest in Central Africa. It is home to 275 bird species and 13 primate species including chimpanzees. Tracking these rambunctious creatures is a thrilling experience and one of the main reasons to visit this beautiful forest. Other activities include the tree canopy walkway and exploring the surrounding tea farms.

#### LAKE KIVU

Lake Kivu lies on the western border of Rwanda and is one of the deepest lakes in Africa. The lake shores are dotted with little beaches and it is safe to swim in it making this an idyllic rest point in a journey. There are a variety of activities available here including boat rides, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and more.

#### **VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK**

Perhaps the best known area of Rwanda is the Volcanoes National Park that surrounds several peaks of the Virunga Mountain chain which runs through Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The forest is home to some of the 1000 wild mountain gorillas that are left in the world as well as families of golden monkeys that are endemic to the area. Gorilla tracking starts early in the morning and is limited to just eight guests per gorilla family; once your guests have found the family they will be allowed to spend one magical hour with them.





We have a range of exciting activities in Kigali which give your guests a unique insight into the culture of Rwanda. This includes a visit to an up and coming fashion designer where they can get fitted for an item of clothing which will be tailored and ready for their departure • In the



Volcanoes National Park ask us about our behind the scenes tours of the Karisoke Research Centre which was founded by Diane Fossey.

### Safari Vehicles

There are two types of safari vehicles in East Africa - open sided and closed sided vehicles:

#### A&K CLOSED SIDED VEHICLES

We have our own fleet of closed sided 4x4 vehicles in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. These vehicles are used when your clients are doing a driving safari with an A&K Driver Guide. On these safaris guests drive instead of fly in between the national parks these safaris are especially common in the Tanzania Northern Circuit, in Uganda and Rwanda. Closed vehicles must be used on these safaris as open vehicles are not allowed to drive on public roads.

The added advantage of driving safaris is that the guests have the same driver guide throughout their journey, ensuring there is no repetition of information during the trip. In addition our drivers speak a variety of languages which means your guests can comfortably converse with him.

#### OPEN SIDED VEHICLES

Open sided vehicles belong to the camps and lodges that your guests stay in and are generally utilized when guests are doing a flying safari. The vehicles have open sides but a covered roof to protect guests from the sun. These are driven by the lodge guides who know the area very well. Not all lodge guides can speak a variety of languages and the guests will have a different guide in each destination they visit.

### A&K Guides

We have two types of guides in A&K East Africa - Driver Guides and Resident Tour Directors®. All our A&K guides and born and raised in their country which gives them a unique perspective on the culture and wildlife of the land which cannot be learnt from a book.

#### A&K DRIVER GUIDES

Driver Guides drive the safari vehicle, spot wildlife and tell your guests about the flora and fauna of the surrounding area. Our driver guides speak English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Japanese. All our Driver Guides have a guiding certification certificate from bronze upwards. Driver guides only accompany clients who are on a driving safari.

### A&K RESIDENT TOUR DIRECTORS®

Regional Tour Directors accompany guests who are on driving and flying safaris throughout their entire journey. We recommend a Resident Tour Director® for groups over six people as they coordinate the logistics of the trip ensuring everything goes smoothly with the group. In addition Resident Tour Directors® have a higher level of guiding qualification than most guides and will make sure your guests are not hearing the same information in each destination. They also speak a variety of languages -making sure that your guests needs are met in every property they visit.





### Climate Chart

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kenya	С	25/12	26/13	25/14	23/14	22/13	21/12	20/11	21/11	23/11	24/13	23/13	23/13
(Nairobi)	F	77/54	79/55	77/5	75/58	72/56	70/53	69/51	70/52	75/52	76/55	74/56	74/55
GMT +3h	R	1.5	2.5	4.9	8.3	6.2	1.8	0.6	0.9	1.2	2.1	4.3	3.4
Tanzania	С	29/10	29/11	27/12	25/14	22/11	21/10	21/10	22/10	24/10	26/11	27/11	27/10
(Arusha)	F	84/50	84/51	81/53	77/57	72/52	70/48	70/48	72/48	76/47	80/51	81/51	81/50
GMT +3	R	1	2	5	14	10	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Uganda	С	33/12	36/14	33/13	33/14	29/15	29/12	29/12	29/12	31/13	32/13	32/14	32/12
(Kampala)	F	92/54	97/57	92/56	91/57	84/59	85/53	85/53	85/53	88/56	90/56	90/58	90/55
GMT +3	R	1.8	2.4	5.1	6.9	5.8	2.9	1.8	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.8	3.9
Rwanda	С	28/16	28/16	27/16	27/16	26/17	27/16	27/15	28/16	28/16	28/16	26/16	27/16
(Kigali)	F	82/61	82/61	80/61	80/61	79/63	80/61	80/59	82/61	82/61	82/61	79/61	80/61
GMT +2	R	2.7	3.9	4.2	7.2	3.6	0.8	0.4	1.3	3.4	4	5	3.9

KEY: C = Average highest and lowest temperatures in degree Celsius . F = Average highest and lowest temperatures in degree Fahrenheit. R = Rainfall in inches. GMT = Greenwich Mean Time (local time shown in hours (h) ahead of (+) GMT.



#### CLASSIC KENYA & TANZANIA

Day 1	Nairobi
Day 2	Amboseli NP
Day 3	Amboseli NP
Day 4	Arusha
Day 5	Ngorongoro Crater
Day 6	Ngorongoro Crater
Day 7	Serengeti NP
Day 8	Serengeti NP
Day 9	Masai Mara
Day 10	Masai Mara
Day 11	Nairobi & Depart

#### BEHIND THE SCENES IN UGANDA & KENYA

Day 1	Entebbe
Day 2	Bwindi NP
Day 3	Bwindi NP
Day 4	Bwindi NP
Day 5	Nairobi
Day 6	Ol Pejeta, Laikipia
Day 7	Ol Pejeta, Laikipia
Day 8	Ol Pejeta, Laikipia
Day 9	Masai Mara
Day 10	Masai Mara
Day 11	Masai Mara
Day 12	Nairobi & Depart

#### INCREDIBLE RWANDA & TANZANIA

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7 Day 8	Kigali Volcanoes NP Volcanoes NP Serengeti NP Serengeti NP Ruaha NP
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Day 9	Ruaha NP
Day 10 Day 11	Ruaha NP Dar es Salaam & Depart

To view these itineraries in detail please visit www.akdmc.com

Masai Mara. Regardless of what time of year your guests choose

to visit East Africa we will recommend properties in the area that the migration should be in during that period. However due to changing weather patterns the wildebeest may be in an area slightly earlier or later than predicted so sightings are not guaranteed.

THE GREAT WILDEBEEST MIGRATION The Migration is a continuous cycle around the Serengeti and the





### RWANDA & UGANDA: GORILLAS

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7	Kigali Nyungwe Forest NP Nyungwe Forest NP Lake Kivu Volcanoes NP Volcanoes NP Volcanoes NP
Day 8	Bwindi Forest NP
Day 9	Bwindi Forest NP
Day 10	Queen Elizabeth NP
Day 11	Queen Elizabeth NP
Day 12	Entebbe & Depart

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KENYA

[el: +254 20 6950 000 Email: info@abercrombiekent.co.k

#### RWANDA

Tel: + 250 788 310 261/2 Email: info@abercrombiekent.ı

Tel: +255 27 250 8347/8 Email: info@abercrombiekent.co.tz

#### UGANDA

Tel: +256 776 852 090 Email: uganda@abercrombiekent.co. @akdmceastandsouthernafrica

www.akdmc.com