

Where
in the
World?

WATCH OUT!
Hungry monkeys
are invading
Cape Town,
South Africa,
looking for food.

BEWARE OF THE BABOON BANDITS!

In South Africa, monkeys are moving to the city—and they're not afraid to steal from humans. BY TOD OLSON

There are thieves on the streets of Cape Town, South Africa. They are bold and they are fierce.

They will steal a backpack off your back. They will break into your home. They will even take groceries from your shopping bag.

Try to argue with this gang of thieves and you won't get very far. They don't understand any language you speak.

Instead, they'll reply with sharp claws and one-inch fangs. But you have to understand that's only natural—for a baboon.

Hungry Monkeys

Cape Town is a surprising place to find wild creatures. It's the second biggest city in South Africa. About 4 million people live there.

A baboon is a type of monkey found in Africa. Normally, baboons make their homes in forests or grasslands. They don't walk the streets of big cities.

But the 450 baboons that live near Cape Town don't have much choice. New houses and buildings have destroyed much of the forest nearby. The baboons have

been pushed closer to the city. And guess what? For a baboon, cities are great places to eat.

So the Cape Town baboons sneak into the city to steal food. They dig through garbage cans. They climb into open windows and raid kitchens. They sniff bags and backpacks for food. They grab what they can and disappear.

Paintball Wars

Cape Town officials are trying very hard to control the wild baboons. They warn people not to feed the