



# AFRICA



THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE



# AFRICA

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

## THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

Welcome to 'Experience Africa', the very first in our range of destination brochures, but now updated and expanded to further inspire and excite you about the places where we love to travel.

I am often asked why "We are The Ultimate Travel Company for a reason" and more specifically, what that reason is.

If I had to sum it up in a single word, it would be this: service. Everything we do is driven by a single-minded focus on providing the very best for you, our customer. From the first conversation you have with one of our travel experts to the moment you step back through your front door, we promise to do everything that we can to deliver a truly Ultimate experience.

First-hand, in-depth knowledge and unqualified enthusiasm for your chosen destination are of course a given, whoever you entrust here with your holiday plans. But as important are the reliability and proven expertise of our in-country representatives and guides, who will, without exception, go that extra mile and beyond to give you a holiday of a lifetime.

That's why we say that, wherever you choose to go, travelling with us is not simply an experience. It's the Ultimate Experience.

With best wishes,

*Nick Van Gruisen*

NICK VAN GRUISEN

# CONTENTS

WHY I LOVE AFRICA .....	6
KENYA .....	8
TANZANIA .....	10
LAMAI SERENGETI, TANZANIA .....	12
ZIMBABWE .....	14
RWANDA .....	16
UGANDA .....	17
CONGO.....	18
MADAGASCAR .....	19
ZAMBIA .....	20
BOTSWANA.....	22
NAMIBIA .....	24
HOANIB VALLEY CAMP, NAMIBIA .....	26
SOUTH AFRICA .....	28
BUSHMANS KLOOF, SOUTH AFRICA.....	30
ETHIOPIA.....	32
MOROCCO .....	33
EGYPT .....	34
JORDAN.....	35
OMAN .....	36
ALILA JABAL AKHDAR, OMAN.....	38
THE INDIAN OCEAN .....	40
MEET THE TEAM .....	42

*“The only man I envy is the man who has not yet been to Africa - for he has so much to look forward to.”*

RICHARD MULLIN



# WHY I LOVE AFRICA



BY BRIAN JACKMAN



"In the highlands," wrote Karen Blixen in *Out of Africa*, "you woke up in the morning and thought: Here I am, where I ought to be." Exactly. I know that feeling, having shared it more times than I can remember, and it happens only in Africa.

The highlands she was referring to are the Ngong Hills of Kenya, just outside Nairobi, and the great plains of Maasailand that stretch deep down into Tanzania's Serengeti national park. This is Hemingway's Africa, hoisted 6,000 ft into the sky, and although you may be no more than a hundred miles from the Equator, the air is sharp and dry, like the finest English summer's day.

Why do I love Africa? What's not to like? For a start, the sense of distance is mind-blowing. In this, the most overcrowded millennium of all time, space is becoming the world's most priceless luxury, a last retreat in which you can still find room to breathe.

That is why a safari holiday should be on everyone's wish list. In Hemingway's day this meant setting off with a tent and a rifle into the back of beyond where the wild things are. Not any more. Today, guns are out and eco-tourism is the buzzword in the bush.

But the reasons for going on safari have not changed. The need to reach out and touch the wild; to sleep under the stars, live in the open and come face to face with Africa's storybook animals - lions, elephants and the rest - not behind bars but moving free as the wind across the boundless savannah.

So where should you go for your first taste of safari life? Africa is so vast. Some of its game parks are the size of small countries. Among the finest are Botswana's miraculous Okavango Delta, Zambia's Luangwa Valley and South Africa's famous Kruger park. But I would always choose East Africa. Nowhere are animals so visible or as numerous as on the rolling grasslands of the Serengeti and Masai Mara, and to look down into the immense bowl of the Ngorongoro Crater is to stand at the gates of heaven.



# KENYA

LAND OF THE LION KING



*“The star billing may be reserved for the Mara’s exceptional population of big cats, but the main event is the annual migration of a million or so wildebeest”*

THE KENYA EXPERIENCE  
9 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Kicheche, Laikipia  
3 nights at Kicheche, Masai Mara  
1 night at Eka Hotel, Nairobi

### PRICES FROM

£4,680 per person (low season)  
£6,895 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Year round, but 'long rains' Apr - May and 'short rains' Nov, so best Dec - Mar and Jun - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

### MORE TO SEE

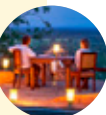
**Samburu** - In the north of the country, its rugged, thirsty landscapes fed intermittently by the lazy Ewaso Nyiro River whose waters are a magnet for game in the dry season.



**Amboseli** - On the southern border with Tanzania. Huge herds of elephant in the shadow of Kilimanjaro are a photographer's dream.



**Meru** - A delightful mix of savannah and woodland to the east of Mt Kenya associated with the work of conservationists George and Joy Adamson. Stay here at Elsa's Kopje.



**Riding safaris** - A thrilling way to interact with the game, either on a mobile safari in the Mara Triangle or a camp to camp ride across the Laikipia Plateau.



**The Coast** - 300 miles of blinding white sand lapped by Equatorial waters - perfect for washing away that safari dust.



Kenya, birthplace of the safari, is Africa of the imagination. A land of game rich savannahs, vibrant cultures, flamingo pink lakes and the Great Rift Valley, visible from the moon.



The 'Out of Africa' landscapes of the Masai Mara are the stuff of legend, a free range wilderness of such broad horizons that mixed herds of five or six different species can often be seen in a single frieze. The star billing may be reserved for the Mara's exceptional population of big cats, but the main event is the annual migration of a million or so wildebeest. Pursued by hungry predators, they are at their most vulnerable (and photogenic) when crossing the crocodile-infested Mara River.

There's a wide choice of places to roost, offering every style of bush living - Mara Plains Camp for example, with its en suite copper baths and wide decks for those 'forever' views; Kicheche Valley Camp, whose six traditional safari tents on the Naboisho Conservancy are popular with honeymooners; and the more family

oriented Sala's Camp, in the south east corner of the Mara and close to the wildebeest river crossings.

Across the Rift Valley is the Laikipia Plateau, a place of untamed beauty which stretches from Mt Kenya to Lake Baringo. Ranch style lodges here offer the staple diet of game drives, bush walks and sundowners, as well as swimming, tennis and fishing to keep all ages amused.

Best of these are OI Malo, an exclusive retreat whose signature 'bush breakfasts' are worth the journey alone, Kicheche Laikipia on the OI Pejeta Conservancy and Lewa Wilderness in the shadow of Mt Kenya. There is every chance of seeing the 'big five' on Lewa's private lands - and without the crowds - but you can also walk, ride and even take to the skies in a yellow biplane for an exhilarating bird's eye view of the 62,000 acre ranch.





# TANZANIA

THE ULTIMATE SAFARI DESTINATION

Ngorongoro Crater



&Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge



THE TANZANIA EXPERIENCE  
14 DAYS

**INCLUDES**

- 1 night at Machweo, Arusha
- 2 nights at Kuro Tarangire
- 2 nights at Entamanu Ngorongoro
- 3 nights at Serengeti Safari Camp
- 3 nights at Lamai Serengeti

**PRICES FROM**

- £7,575 per person (low season)
- £11,075 per person (high season)
- Includes flights

**WHEN TO GO**

Year round, but 'long rains' Apr - May and 'short rains' Nov, so best Dec - Mar and Jun - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

National parks of unlimited size and grandeur, animals in their tens of thousands...this is Africa in all its rare and special splendour.



Tanzania's trump card is the Serengeti, its sweeping savannah grasslands and unimaginably endless plains broken only by clusters of acacia, granite outcrops and termite colonies, and a landscape of creation little changed since man first arrived on the scene some three million years ago.

The Serengeti also hosts one of the world's most spectacular natural pageants, the annual wildebeest migration, but at any time of the year the park is thick with game. Of the many lodges and camps, a roll call of the best would include Lamai Serengeti, built around a kopje with incredible views of the northern plains; Namiri Plains, opened in 2014 and smack bang in the middle of big cat country; the four Singita properties, all within the Grumeti Conservancy and equally exclusive; and 'semi mobile' Serengeti Safari Camp, which moves every few months with the migrating herds.

The topographical highlight of any 'northern circuit' is the Ngorongoro Crater. Ten miles across, 2,000 feet deep and encased by towering forested walls, the world's largest volcanic caldera is not just an astonishing sight but also sanctuary to an extraordinary proliferation of wildlife. Wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, giraffe, buffalo, jackal, hyena, cheetah, leopard, lion, rhino and elephant - they're all here in staggering numbers. Although you cannot stay within the crater itself, &Beyond and Nomad have very exclusive properties on the actual rim, and idyllic Gibb's Farm is nearby among the coffee plantations of Karatu.

The Serengeti and Ngorongoro combine well with Tarangire, a smaller but beautiful national park renowned for its elephant herds that congregate along the banks of the river. And try to include a side trip to Lake Manyara, home to hundreds of stately pink flamingo but best known for its prides of tree-climbing lion.

## MORE TO SEE



**The 'wild west'** - Head west to the remote expanses of Katavi and to Greystoke, an exotic Ottoman-style retreat on the shores of Lake Tanganyika where you can track chimpanzees in the fairytale forests of the Mahale Mountains.



**The South** - Travel south to the wild isolation of the Selous and Ruaha, the 'Africa of old' and teeming with game.



**Zanzibar** - The Spice Island's dazzling white sand beaches make for the perfect finale to your Tanzanian adventure.



**Kilimanjaro** - Looking for a physical challenge? Africa's highest mountain beckons. A minimum of five rigorous but non-technical days of trekking will take you to the 19,340-foot summit and back.

# LAMAI SERENGETI

A FAITHFUL GUARDIAN OF  
TANZANIA'S SPECTACULAR NATURAL LEGACY



## NOMAD TANZANIA

Lamai Serengeti is owned and run by Nomad Tanzania, whose exclusive portfolio of safari lodges and camps covers the length and breadth of the country - as far south as the Selous and west to the Mahale Mountains.



Entamanu Ngorongoro

Those following the more popular northern circuit can combine Lamai with **Entamanu Ngorongoro, Kuro Tarangire and Serengeti Safari Camp**, a mobile canvas home from home which is always on the move in step with the migratory patterns of the game.



Sand Rivers Selous

To the south and wildly remote are **Sand Rivers Selous, Kigelia Ruaha and Kiba Point**, a private retreat for small parties of families and friends in the heart of the Selous.



Greystoke Mahale

Head west toward the shores of Lake Tanganyika and you can fly camp at **Chada Katavi** before tracking chimpanzees from the Ottoman style comforts of **Greystoke Mahale**.

### SOME KEY FACTS:

- Lamai is a 30-minute drive from the nearest airstrip at Kogatende in the Serengeti's northern sector.
- Twelve en suite rooms are split between Main Camp and the smaller Private Camp, each with its own bar and dining area, adjoining library and map room, and swimming pool.
- A separate and private residence, Mkombe's House, accommodates up to four adults and six children comfortably (so perfect for two families) and is the first of its kind in the Serengeti.
- The wildebeest migrate through Lamai and cross the nearby Mara River from July to October, but game viewing is exceptional throughout the year.
- The lodge has been given special dispensation by the park authorities for guided bush walks - a rare bonus.



Far reaching views of the Serengeti Plain and the thrill of the great wildebeest migration meet at this wonderful lodge in northern Tanzania.

From Lamai's remote perch among the rocks of Kogakuria Kopje, you can see for miles and miles across this iconic stretch of wilderness heaven, where wildebeest gather in their millions before running the gauntlet of the Mara River and vast herds of plains game are endlessly shadowed by their attendant predators. It really is wildlife theatre at its finest.

Days are spent either on foot or in rugged 4WD vehicles in the company of expert resident guides who will bring this vivid, moving canvas into even sharper and more exhilarating focus. And when you do eventually return to the lodge for a refreshing dip in the pool and that welcome sundowner, you'll be welcomed by luxurious safari 'rooms' with their own spacious verandas (for those views), amazingly good food and exceptional hosting.

Lamai Serengeti's stated mission is 'to act as a faithful guardian' of this sacred natural amphitheatre. It's no idle boast!

# ZIMBABWE

BACK ON THE MAP

*“Gaze upon Livingstone’s famous ‘smoke that thunders’ from a safe distance”*

Victoria Falls



Ruckomechi

## THE ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

11 DAYS



### INCLUDES

- 2 nights at Victoria Falls
- 3 nights at Somalisa, Hwange
- 3 nights at Ruckomechi, Mana Pools

### PRICES FROM

- £7,115 per person (low season)
- £8,295 per person (high season)
- Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Rains Nov - Mar, so best Apr - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Back in the day, Zimbabwe was Africa's most popular safari destination. With a new dawn breaking, it is time to put this wonderful country firmly back on the map.



Beyond the banks of the great Zambezi River and the man-made shores of Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe remains unspoilt, its camps and lodges designed to be at one with the environment where bush life is old-style and the game as plentiful as anywhere on the continent.

Its largest and most famous national park, Hwange, boasts some of the best guides in Africa, the 'big five' and more than 400 bird species. Newly refurbished Somalisa is the place to stay, especially if you love elephants; they have a particular passion for the camp's swimming pool!

Its wildest and most beautiful is Mana Pools, a game rich paradise of floodplain, acacia grove and riverine forest nourished by the waters of the Lower Zambezi and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ruckomechi is the best of the riverside camps here, with bush walks, canoe safaris and tiger fishing all on the menu, as well as some spectacular birding in this stunningly pristine wetland habitat.

Zimbabwe is also home to one of the planet's most awe-inspiring natural spectacles, the Victoria Falls. Adrenaline junkies flock here to bungee jump and white water raft, and you can even picnic on an island at the very lip of the falls if you have the appetite, but you may prefer to enjoy the colonial splendour of the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel and gaze upon Livingstone's famous 'smoke that thunders' from a safe distance!

### MORE TO SEE

**Lake Kariba** - Enjoy spectacular views across the shimmering waters of the lake and a truly immersive wildlife experience at remote Bumi Hills Safari Lodge.



**The Greater Mana Expedition** - Six exciting nights of exploratory adventure with Great Plains Conservation in the wilds of Mana Pools and neighbouring Sapi.



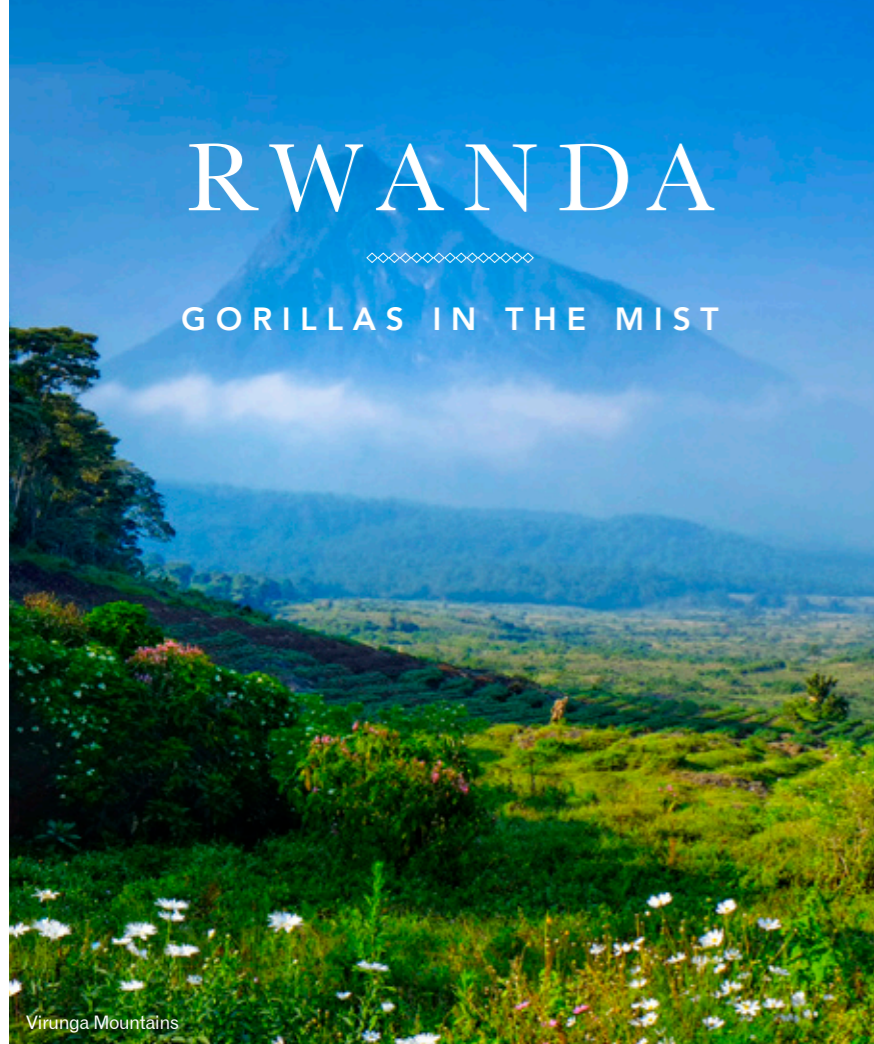
**The Matopos** - Stay at Camp Amalinda and track both black and white rhino across the park's fantastic granite kopjes.



**Gonarezhou** - Elephant, wild dog and the exclusive comforts of Chilo Lodge are the main attractions here on Zimbabwe's wild southern border with Mozambique.







# RWANDA

GORILLAS IN THE MIST

Virunga Mountains

THE RWANDA EXPERIENCE  
9 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights Virunga Lodge, Volcanoes National Park  
3 nights One&Only Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest Reserve  
1 night Hotel des Mille Collines, Kigali

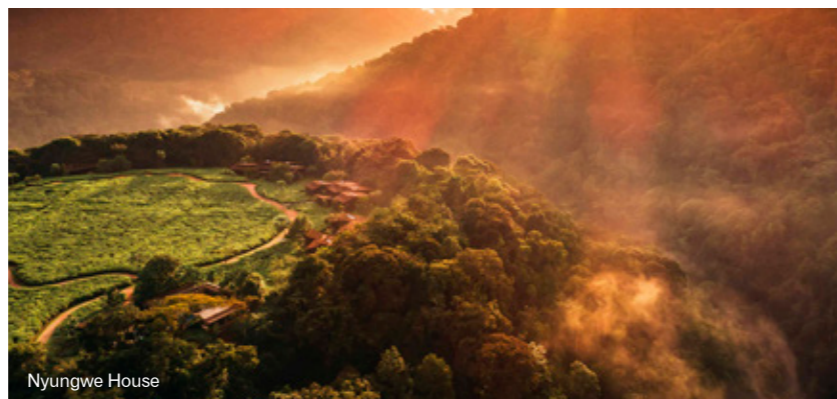
### PRICES FROM

£8,015 per person (low season)  
£9,795 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Year round, but with similar rainfall patterns to Uganda

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Nyungwe House

It's home to half the world's population of mountain gorillas. It's where Dian Fosse spent thirteen remarkable years living with these greatest of great apes.



And it's here, on the mist-shrouded flanks of the Virunga Mountains, that you too can come face-to-face with these truly awe-inspiring creatures.

Look into the eyes of a fully grown silverback and he'll look back with a thoughtful, intelligent gaze, mindful that you're another individual. Look deeper and you may discern the reflected pain and suffering of Rwanda's recent past, but also the very real hope for future generations. One thing is certain though. To meet and to engage with the mountain gorilla families of the Virungas transcends any other wildlife experience on the planet.

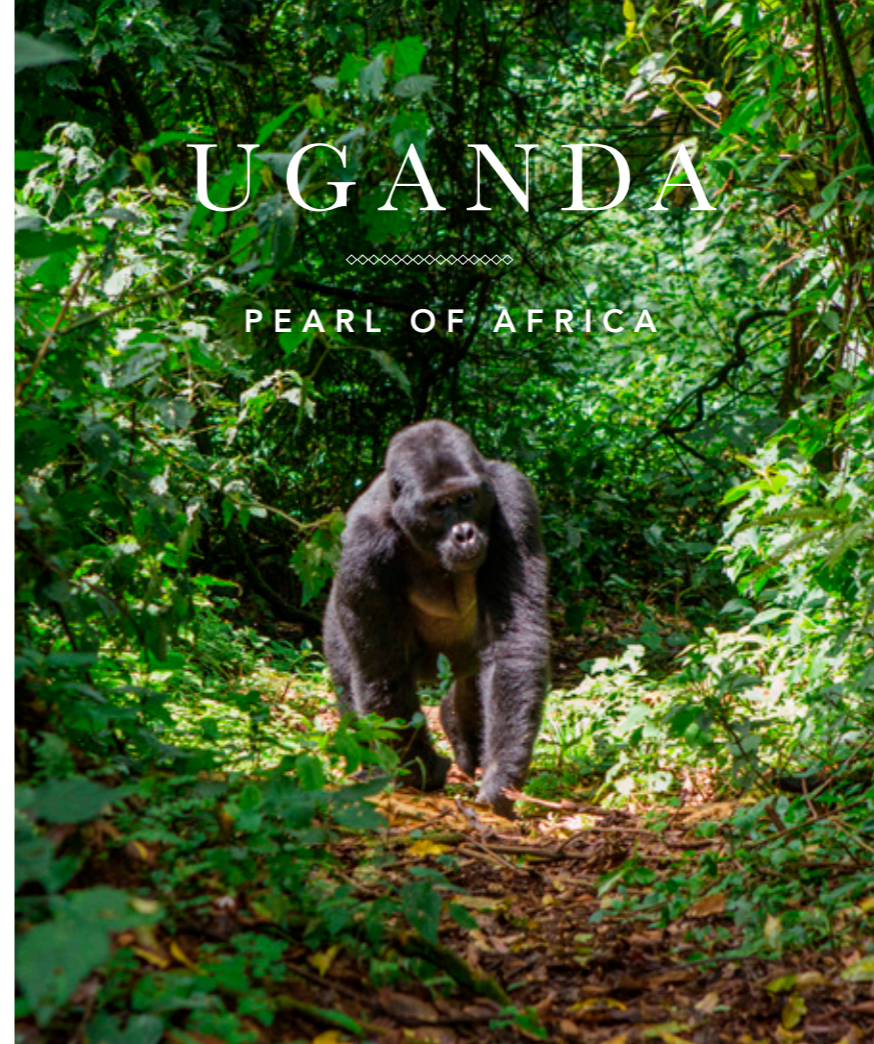
But while you're there, add a day in the Virungas for some golden monkey tracking, explore Nyungwe's ancient rainforests from the secluded comforts of a One&Only lodge, and visit the Genocide Museum in Kigali. It's a harrowing but compelling experience.

### MORE TO SEE

**Akegera** - Stay at Magashi, Wilderness Safaris' lakeside camp at the heart of this wetland paradise on the border with Tanzania.



**Lake Kivu** - One of Africa's Great Lakes, Kivu is rural Rwanda at its most enchanting.

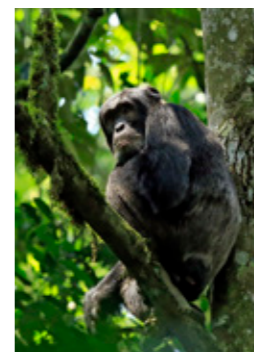


# UGANDA

PEARL OF AFRICA



Kyambura



THE UGANDA EXPERIENCE  
11 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Ndali, Kibale  
3 nights at Kyambura, Queen Elizabeth NP  
3 nights at Bwindi

### PRICES FROM

£6,945 per person (low season)  
£7,475 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Year round, but 'long rains' Apr - May and 'short rains' Nov, so best Dec - Mar and Jun - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Unspoilt rainforest, voluptuous scenery and abundant wildlife...little wonder that Uganda is referred to as the 'Pearl of Africa'.



Fly into Entebbe but make your first stop the Ndali Lodge, overlooking Lake Nyiambuga and the game and chimpanzee rich forests of Kibale. Then head to Kyambura, Volcanoes' signature safari lodge in the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where the main attractions include tree climbing lion, leopard, elephant, vast herds of Ugandan kob, wonderful views of the Ruwenzori Mountains and few other tourists.

Nothing though will come close to the experience of tracking the mountain gorilla through the impenetrable vegetation of the Bwindi Forest, one of its last remaining refuges. Be prepared for some tough walking, but the rewards of getting to within touching distance of these magnificent but endangered creatures, who share 97.7% of our DNA, will last forever.



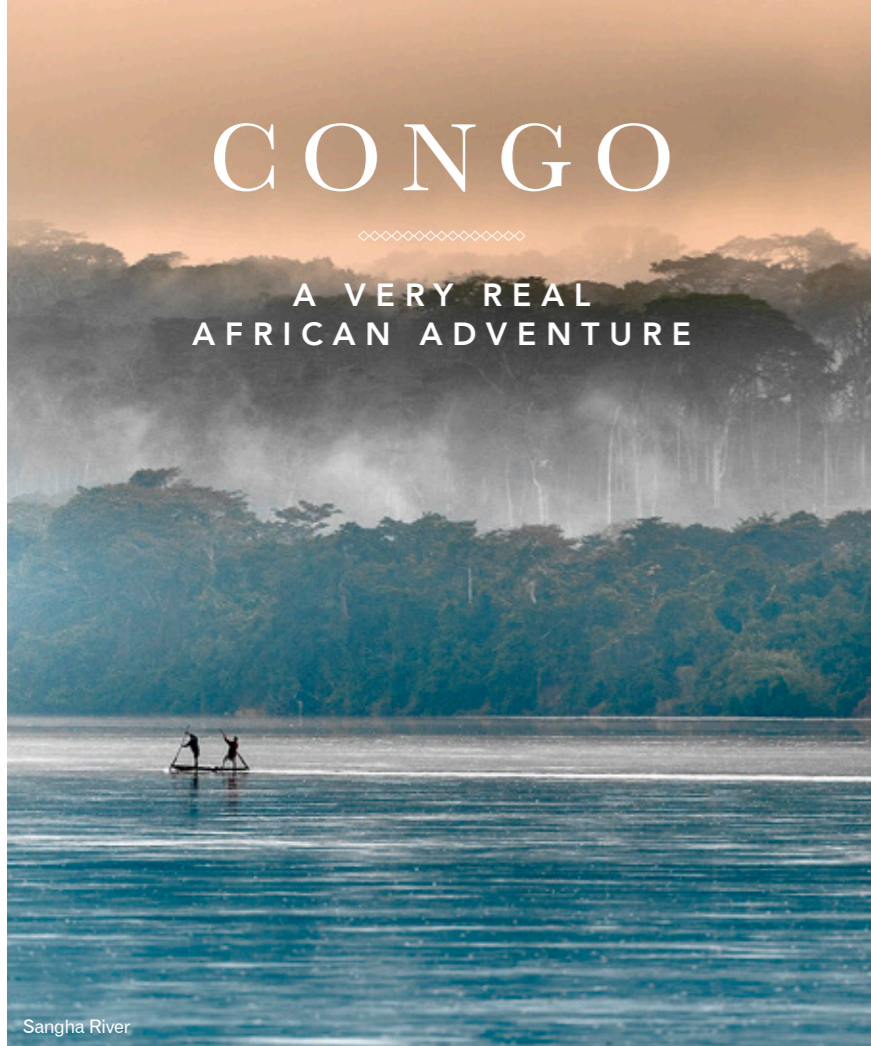
### MORE TO SEE

**Murchison Falls** - Where the Nile squeezes through a six metre cleft and hippo and elephant come to bathe in the river.



# CONGO

A VERY REAL  
AFRICAN ADVENTURE



Sangha River



Ndzehe Concession



Lango Camp

THE CONGO EXPERIENCE  
11 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Ngaga Camp, Ndzehe Concession  
2 nights at each of Lango Camp and Mboko Camp, Odzala-Kokoua  
1 night at Radisson Blu, Brazzaville

### PRICES FROM

£8,420 per person  
Includes flights

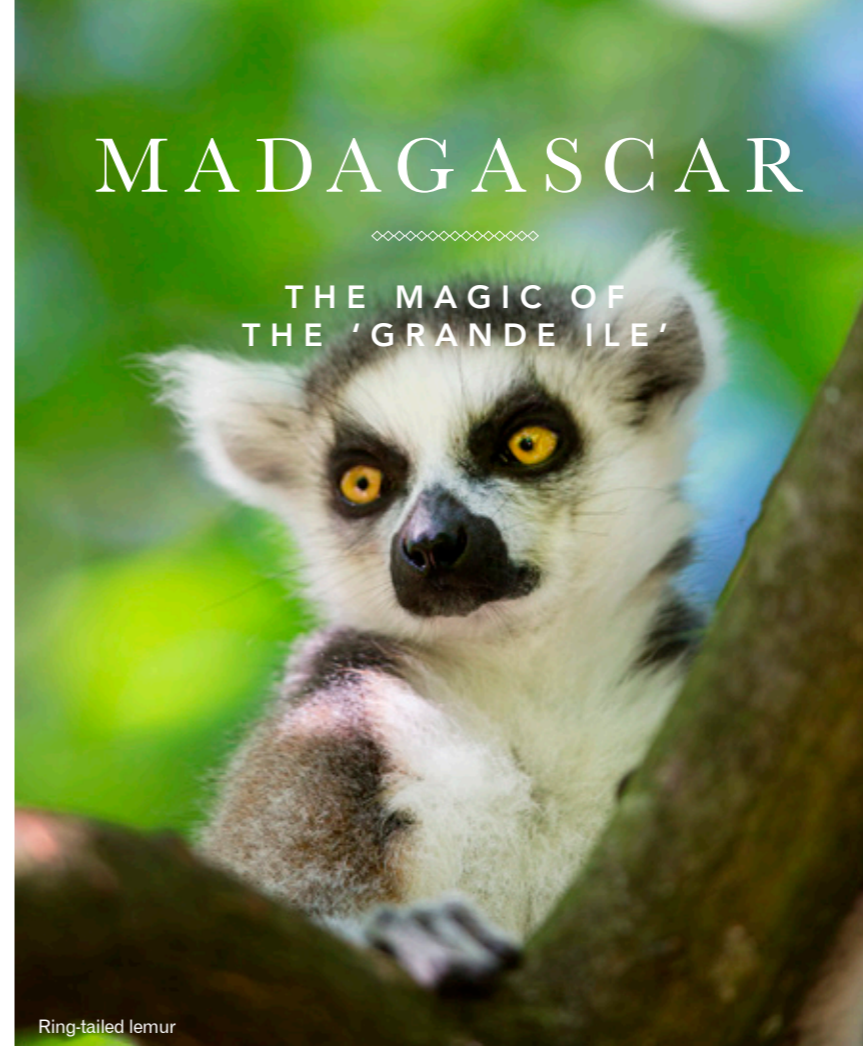
### WHEN TO GO

Year round but wetter Mar-Apr and Oct-Dec

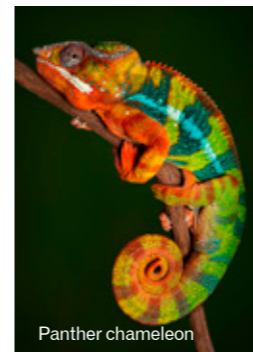
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

# MADAGASCAR

THE MAGIC OF  
THE 'GRANDE ILE'



Ring-tailed lemur



Panther chameleon



Avenue of the Baobabs

THE MADAGASCAR EXPERIENCE  
15 DAYS



### INCLUDES

2 nights at Mantadia Lodge, Andasibe  
1 night at Grand Hotel Urban, Antananarivo  
3 nights at Le Jardin du Roy, Isalo  
3 nights at Mandrare River Camp, near Berenty  
3 nights at Manafiafy Beach & Rainforest Lodge

### PRICES FROM

£6,570 per person (low season)  
£7,145 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Heavy rain Jan-Mar, so best Apr-Dec

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

### MORE TO SEE



Ile Sainte Marie

**Humpback Whales** - Large pods migrate from Antarctica to the sheltered waters around Ile Ste Marie to calve and nurse their young from June to September.

**Anjajavy** - Combine white sand beach, rainforest and rare comfort at this private nature reserve in the north-west.

**The North** - Head north to Ankarana and Montagne D'Ambre for more lemurs and unique 'tsingy' limestone forests.



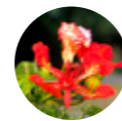
For those ready to heed the call of the wild, and not afraid of adventure, this land of steamy jungles is on the verge of becoming one of Africa's finest ecotourism destinations.



Consider this. The Congo Basin contains the greatest number of mammals, primates, birds, amphibians, fish and swallowtail butterflies in Africa. Half the world's population of lowland gorilla, forest elephant and the rarely seen bongo antelope inhabit the largest undisturbed stands of tropical forest on the planet. As do such proboscally exotic creatures as the slender-snouted crocodile and putty-nosed monkey. This is no longer the 'Heart of Darkness' but Africa unmasked, beautiful and powerful.

The easiest part of any Congo trip is the planning of it. Essentially, safaris follow the same pattern and combine a few nights in each of the Ndzehe Concession and the Odzala-Kokoua National Park where the camps are simple but comfortable and the flora and fauna at their colourful best. Ngaga, for example, is truly Gorilla central! At the same time, it is nature at its most untrammelled and a very real adventure, with 'wet walking' in energy sapping tropical conditions the only way to access both the wilderness and the wildlife.

The fourth largest island in the world, Madagascar is an intriguing mix of stunning mountain landscapes, plateaux carpeted with dense tropical vegetation, and superbly remote white sand beaches.



The 'Grande Ile' is also home to the endemic, amusing and omnipresent lemur, and a natural diversity that more than makes up for a somewhat fragile infrastructure. Wildlife reserves harbour some 15,000 species of flora and fauna (again endemic to the island), extraordinary fossilised forests and fantastic geological formations are the result of centuries of erosion, while the unique Malagasy 'cult of ancestors' is powerfully represented by the numerous tombs to be found across the country richly decorated with sculpted totems and zebu horns.

In a destination of this size and scope there is no shortage of options, but try not to miss such highlights as the lemurs' favourite playground of Andasibe, the spectacular landscapes of Isalo, the spiny forests of Berenty and the tropical paradise of Manafiafy.

# ZAMBIA

THE 'WILD HEART' OF AFRICA



Luangwa Valley



Chinzombo

THE ZAMBIA EXPERIENCE  
11 DAYS

**INCLUDES**  
3 nights at Chongwe Camp, Lower Zambezi  
3 nights at Luwi, South Luangwa (includes one night 'Sleepout under the Stars')  
2 nights at Kakuli, South Luangwa

**PRICES FROM**  
£5,925 per person (low season)  
£7,195 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

**WHEN TO GO**  
Rains Dec - April, so best May - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

The legends of great explorers are stitched into Zambia's very fabric, its landscapes little changed since David Livingstone trekked its high places and game-rich valleys. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the country's dominating feature, the South Luangwa National Park.



**W**ith some of the highest concentrations of wildlife on the planet, the game viewing in the South Luangwa is quite exceptional. Gathered here are lion, leopard and elephant, herds of zebra, puku, impala and kudu, and around 50 hippos for every mile of river. It's a zoo turned inside out!

The valley belongs within the Great Rift, Africa's massive geological cleavage, through which flows the Luangwa River. Many of the park's lodges sit on its banks or beside its many lagoons, cast offs from its previous meanders and gathering spots for animals. Robin Pope, one of the country's leading safari names, owns Nkwali, Nsefu and Tena Tena, while luxurious Chinzombo belongs to Norman Carr, another Luangwa luminary.

There may be a gentle, almost rural quality to the valley's shaded woodland glades and grasslands,

but the ambience is hardly pastoral. Behind Luangwa's green innocence anything could happen, especially when you're on a walking safari.

And walking on the wild side, together with the professionalism of its guides, is what has made the Luangwa world-renowned. Day and night game drives are of course an option, but with few roads moving on foot from camp to camp is the most rewarding and exhilarating way to explore the park. No wonder many old safari hands consider this the epitome of the 'real' Africa.

If time allows, it is well worth adding a few days in the beautiful Lower Zambezi National Park, where you can fish and canoe among the crocodile and hippo. Stay here on the banks of the Zambezi at one of Anabezi, Chiawa, Chongwe or Sausage Tree, all of them with wonderful views across the river.

## MORE TO SEE



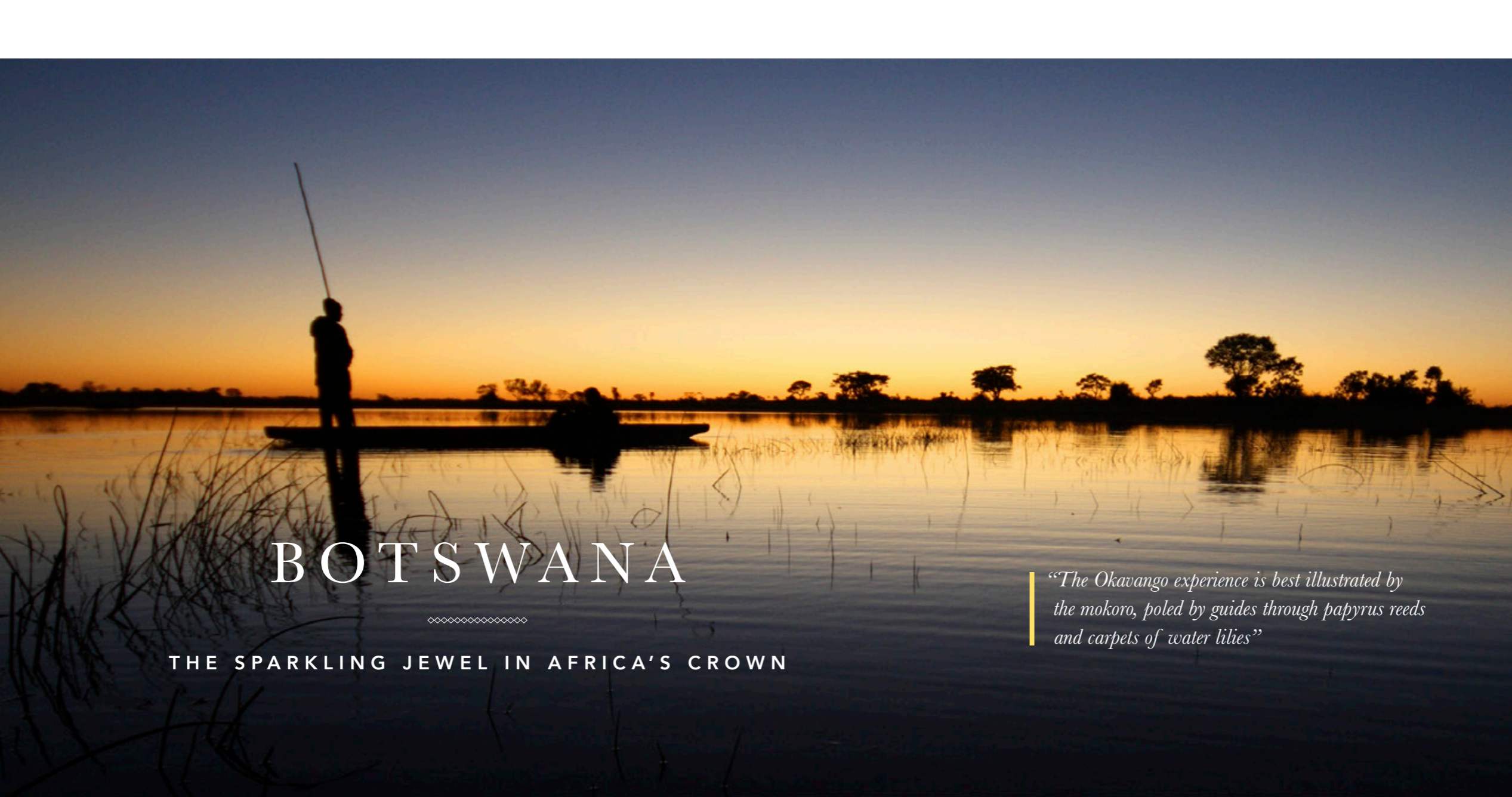
**Lake Malawi** - The most convenient and cost effective R&R post-safari. Snorkel, sail, bird watch or simply soak up the expansive lake views from either Pumalani or Kaya Mawa.



**Kafue / Busanga** - An uncharted wilderness in the middle of the country, where the great herds roam unhindered and which defines Zambia's soubriquet as the 'wild heart of Africa'.



**Upper Zambezi** - Stay just above the Victoria Falls at either The River Club or Tongabezi and canoe to the very lip of the Falls themselves.



# BOTSWANA

THE SPARKLING JEWEL IN AFRICA'S CROWN

*“The Okavango experience is best illustrated by the mokoro, poled by guides through papyrus reeds and carpets of water lilies”*

THE BOTSWANA EXPERIENCE  
11 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Selinda Explorers, Linyanti  
3 nights Gomoti Plains, Okavango  
2 nights Little Vumbura, Okavango

### PRICES FROM

£7,150 per person (low season)  
£10,790 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Rains Dec - Apr, so best May - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

### MORE TO SEE

The Okavango is Botswana's, if not Africa's, most precious natural treasure. It is also the largest inland delta in the world, a vast biomass of lagoons, water channels and islands that, quite bizarrely, lies within the arid Kalahari, the largest desert on the planet. And as a sanctuary for wildlife, this wetland paradise has few rivals.

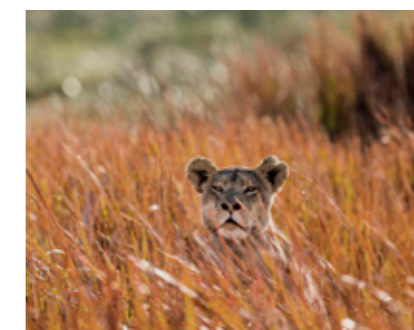


Safaris in the Delta are as much on water as on land. Indeed, the Okavango experience is best illustrated by the *mokoro* which, poled by guides through papyrus reeds and carpets of water lilies, will immerse you in a low level world of carmine bee eaters, kingfishers, lilac breasted rollers and other incandescent plumages.

But Botswana is so much more than just the Okavango. Some of Africa's greatest herds of elephant move through the northerly Chobe National Park in the dry season. At the same time, big game viewing is as good as it gets in the adjacent private concessions of Selinda and Kwando Linyanti, while to the south the Kalahari is more about San bushmen, meerkats and quad bike adventures across the spectacular desolation of the Makgadikadi salt pan.

And in a country that seems to define superlatives, Botswana also lays justifiable claim to the finest lodges and camps on the continent. Located in very different eco systems, yet just a 30 minute or so hop apart by a dragonfly of a plane, each of these wilderness hideaways has around 50,000 acres of reserve all to itself.

A far from conclusive list might include Selinda Explorers, tucked away on the Spillway which has magically begun to flow again after years of drought; Little Vumbura and Gomoti Plains, both within the Delta and very picturesque with lots of land and water based activities on the menu; and Lebala, an intimate little camp at the heart of the Kwando concession and the place to see wild dog.

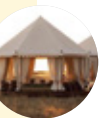


**Savuti Channel** - Follow in the footsteps of yesteryear's explorers on a 'mobile' safari from the Khwai River to the world renowned Savuti Channel.

**Limpopo Valley** - Ride through the Delta with RAW Africa or Okavango Horse Safaris. It's also possible to organise more adventurous rides through the 'Tuli Block' wilderness of the Limpopo Valley in the remote far east of the country.

**Victoria Falls** - Well worth the diversion! And easily added to any Botswana safari.

**Jack's Camp & San Camp** - Unique desert retreats deep within the Kalahari, where bushman trackers lead drives and walks across the Makgadikgadi salt pan.



# NAMIBIA

AFRICA ON A TRULY EPIC SCALE

*“Watch the colours fluctuate from peach to crimson as dawn breaks over the silent expanse of the desert”*



Little Kulala



## THE NAMIBIA EXPERIENCE 14 DAYS



### INCLUDES

- 1 night at Olive Exclusive, Windhoek
- 2 nights at Kulala, Sossusvlei
- 2 nights at Spitzkoppen, near Swakopmund
- 1 night at Doro Nawas, Damaraland
- 2 nights at Hoanib, Skeleton Coast
- 2 nights at Ongava, Etosha
- 1 night at Okonjima

### PRICES FROM

- £5,150 per person (low season)
- £6,530 per person (high season)
- Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Fierce heat from Nov - Mar, so best Apr - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Defining Africa's south west coast, Namibia's raw and untamed landscapes cry out for exploration, yet sit comfortably within the compass of the independent traveller.



With more than 300 days of sunshine a year and a climate that is ideal during the school summer holidays, it is a destination that also works well for families. Hire a 4WD and take to some of the most open, grandest and emptiest of roads on the planet. The plethora of distracting scenes along the way will stifle any 'when are we going to get there' moans from the back seat!

Most of Namibia's wildlife, and indeed most of Africa's big game species, can be found in the Etosha National Park, with its central Pan attracting huge numbers of animals. Ongava, on a private concession to the south of the park, is the place to stay for a more exclusive Etosha experience.

Dividing Etosha from the coast is Damaraland, a dramatic mountain desert environment remarkable for its wealth of ancient rock engravings and strange geological formations, which include a 200 million

year old petrified forest. Elephant, lion and leopard can sometimes be found here, and you can also track Namibia's rare, desert-adapted black rhino.

To the west lies the uninhabited and hauntingly beautiful wilderness of the Skeleton Coast. So named not just for the many ships that have foundered on its shores, but also for the whale and sea bones found scattered along its beaches.

To the south are the drifting sand seas and towering dunes of the Namib Desert, thought to be the oldest in the world. Stay here at Kulala, set amidst the awe inspiring scenery of the NamibRand, and rise early to climb one of these 300 metre natural masterpieces at nearby Sossusvlei. From the top, you can watch the colours fluctuate from peach to crimson as dawn breaks over the silent expanse of the desert.

## MORE TO SEE



**Skeleton Coast** - Best experienced on a fly in safari with the Schoemans. Your pilot guide will reveal a moving canvas of dunes, deep canyons and ancient river courses before landing on isolated beaches and desert strips.

**Serra Cafema** - Far to the north on the banks of the Kunene River and encased in utter wilderness. The area is home to the Himba, the last true nomads in Africa.

**Okonjima** - Track leopard and cheetah on foot with the Africat Foundation.



# HOANIB VALLEY CAMP

NAMIBIA AT ITS RUGGED, WILDEST BEST

Created to showcase the incredible natural wonders of Kaokoland, in the remote north-western reaches of Namibia, Hoanib offers you an experience like no other.

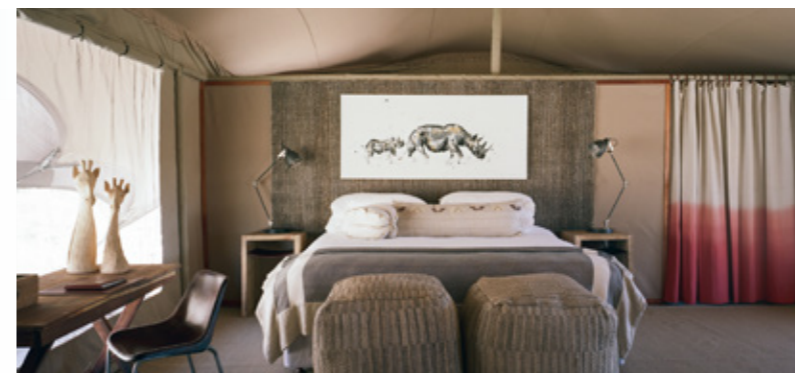
Overlooking the Hoanib River on the edge of the Palmwag Concession, the camp is set deep within Kaokoland, an utterly remote wilderness defined by sweeping deserts, rolling sand dunes and jagged mountains. There are just six guest tents, designed to blend seamlessly with the environment and each with private veranda looking out across the grand emptiness of it all.

Equally impressive is the way Africa's wildlife has adapted itself, not just to survive but to flourish amidst this harshly beautiful desolation. Game drives will follow dry river beds in search of elephant, lion and giraffe, as well as kudu, oryx and the endangered black rhino, while guided walks will introduce you to some of the smaller desert adaptations. Keen birdwatchers should also keep their eyes peeled for Monteiro's hornbills, Ruppell's korhaans and Verreux's eagles.

So, let this elegant, intimate eco-camp immerse you in the magic and magnitude of Namibia. It really is an experience like no other, here 'where the elephants roam'.

## SOME KEY FACTS:

- Fly into Hoanib's private airstrip from Windhoek or hire a 4x4 and drive yourself to camp.
- Open year-round, but the 'green season' from November to April and the 'dry season' from May to October offer remarkably different experiences.
- In addition to game drives and nature walks, track rhino with expert guides and interact with the Himba and Herero people.
- Hoanib is a ground-breaking joint venture between local communities and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.



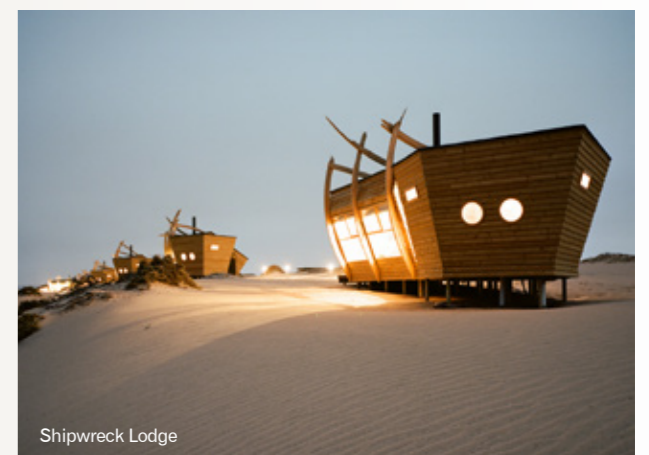
## NATURAL SELECTION, SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natural Selection's portfolio of owner-run camps in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa, of which Hoanib is part, can be defined by a common aim - to deliver an exceptional safari experience 'at the very heart of where the wild things are' and be a vital part of Africa's conservation solution.



Etosha Mountain Lodge

Just as Hoanib delivers, so do Natural Selection's three other Namibia properties. **Etosha Mountain Lodge** and **Safarihoek** are both set on private reserves bordering the country's most famous national park, while **Shipwreck Lodge** lies marooned amidst the impossibly raw and rugged drama of the Skeleton Coast.



Shipwreck Lodge

And four will soon become five with the opening of a new tented lodge in the renowned Caprivi Strip on Namibia's eastern border with Botswana. **Nkasa Linyanti** will even have its own airfield and immigration facilities, thereby simplifying any combination with the camps across the water in Chobe and the Okavango.

# SOUTH AFRICA

A WORLD IN ONE COUNTRY

*"Few places in the world challenge Cape Town with its perfect marriage of mountain and sea"*

Gordon's Bay, Cape Town

From world class beaches and wildlife lodges to award winning vineyards and dramatic mountain scenery...the 'Rainbow Nation' is indeed 'a world in one country'.



**F**ew places in the world challenge Cape Town with its perfect marriage of mountain and sea. Get a bird's eye view from the summit of Table Mountain, a World Heritage Site not just for the glorious vista but for the wild garden of more than 2,000 plant species that thrive on the plateau.

The restored wharves and warehouses of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront spell Cape Town at its most animated, but other must see attractions include Robben Island, the Cape of Good Hope and any number of stunning beaches. There are also many great places to stay, but try Welgelegen, a charming B&B just off Kloof Street and a short stroll from the city's best restaurants.

Wines and vines are of course essential ingredients of any visit to the Cape. Two of the grandest Cape Dutch estates, Groot Constantia and Klein Constantia (whose

wine was served by Sun King Louis XIV at Versailles), can be seen without leaving the city, but find the time to drive out to Stellenbosch or Franschhoek, where vineyard meets mountain in exquisite perfection.

For a longer drive follow the Garden Route. Highlights of this iconic road trip include Tsitsikamma, whose meadows of native 'fynbos' are classified by botanists as one of the Earth's seven floral kingdoms; the white sand beaches and azure seas of Plettenburg Bay; whale watching in Hermanus from July to December; and the seafood restaurants of Knysna (order the oysters!).

And don't miss out on the 'big five'...best seen in the world-renowned Sabi Sands Game Reserve on the edge of the Kruger, where you can choose either the elegant simplicity of Notten's Bush Camp or the uber luxury of Londolozi.



Groot Constantia



Londolozi

## THE SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCE 15 DAYS



### INCLUDES

4 nights at Welgelegen, Cape Town  
2 nights at Le Quartier Francais, Franschhoek  
3 nights at Emily Moon, Plettenburg Bay  
3 nights at Notten's, Sabi Sands

### PRICES FROM

£4,495 per person (low season)  
£6,695 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

**North** - year round, rains Nov - Mar, so best Apr - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

**South** - year round, rains May - Oct, so best Nov - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

### MORE TO SEE

**Kwazulu Natal** - Apart from the battlefields, South Africa's showpiece 'garden province' boasts some spectacular coastal scenery and the mighty Drakensberg mountains.

**Zulu Battlefields** - Fly into Durban, drive up to Fugitive's Drift, and listen to the lodge's local Zulu guides recount the momentous events of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift on the actual fields of battle.

**The Blue Train and Rovos Rail** - Recreate the golden age of travel on a train journey between Pretoria and Cape Town or Victoria Falls.

**Kwandwe and Madikwe** - One in the Eastern Cape and the other on the northern border with Botswana, but both malaria free, full of wildlife and perfect for the family safari.



# BUSHMANS KLOOF

WHERE NATURE MEETS LUXURY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S WESTERN CAPE



## RED CARNATION, SOUTH AFRICA

Red Carnation's family-owned collection of hotels span England, Ireland, Switzerland, Florida, South Africa and the Channel Islands. South Africa itself has just three, including Bushmans Kloof, but all share the RC ethos of impeccable service, generous hospitality and exceptional dining.

The Oyster Box



Member of 'The Leading Hotels of the World', **The Oyster Box** is cherished as a national treasure. Overlooking Durban's Umhlanga Rocks and its iconic lighthouse, this finest of Cape Town properties invites guests to discover its timeless elegance and multitude of gourmet experiences, including High Tea and the famous curry feast.

Nestling in the foothills of the Cederberg Mountains, where ancient bush rock art dates back some 10,000 years, Bushmans Kloof is both wilderness reserve and multi award-winning wellness retreat.

Just a three-hour drive from Cape Town, this elegant oasis is one of the Western Cape's hidden gems, a place of rare beauty and diversity where you can reconnect with nature and reinvigorate mind and body. There are just 16 splendidly luxurious and perfectly proportioned rooms and suites with wonderful views of the Cederberg, as well as a privately catered villa within the reserve that is ideal for families and an exclusive villa at the main lodge with room for four adults.

The reserve itself boasts more than 200 bird and animal species, including the rare Cape Mountain zebra, and days can be spent hiking, biking and canoeing within its wildly beautiful confines. Fly-fishing, swimming and rock art excursions are also on the agenda here.

And when you return to Bushmans Kloof at the end of the day, you'll find three infinity pools, a delightful riverside boma, fine dining in the restaurant or spectacular bush cuisine al fresco, and award-winning therapy in The Spa designed to rejuvenate you in time for the morrow.

### SOME KEY FACTS:

- A three-hour drive from Cape Town, Bushmans Kloof is a National Heritage Site within the Cape Floral Kingdom.
- Open year-round, but best weather-wise from September to April. The flower season, when South African proteas and other rare indigenous flora carpet the rolling hills of the Cederberg in a riotous profusion of colour, lasts from July to October.
- Additional attractions include stargazing (skies are often crystal clear in the Cederberg), wine tasting and talks on the rich cultural history of the Bushman.
- Awards and accolades, from a listing in Conde Nast's 'Top 40 Hotels in Africa 2018' to 'Best Spa in Africa & Indian Ocean' in the Global Wellness Awards 2018, regularly come the way of this Relais & Chateaux property.

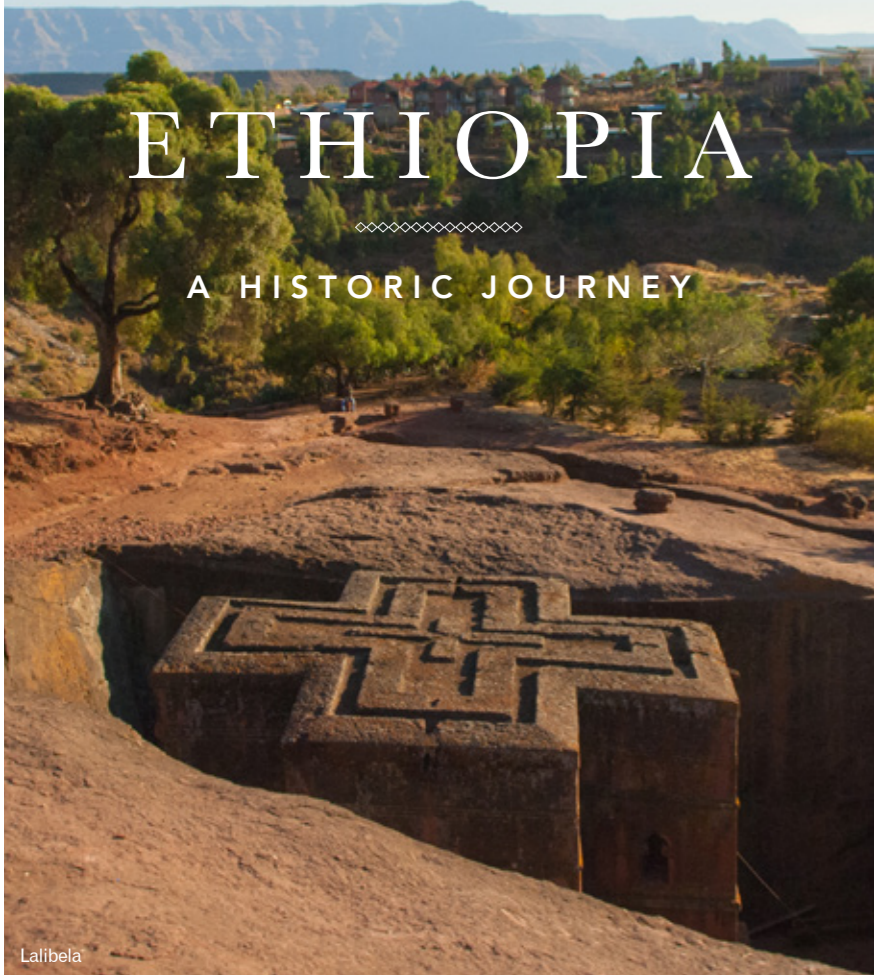


The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa



**The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa** also boasts 'Leading Hotel of the World' status. Dividing the Atlantic Ocean from Table Mountain and the majestic Twelve Apostles, you can dine here on the finest seafood at Azure Restaurant, drink in sunset views at The Leopard Bar and indulge yourself in a holistic spa with outdoor gazebos.





# ETHIOPIA

A HISTORIC JOURNEY

Lalibela

## THE ETHIOPIA EXPERIENCE

14 DAYS



### INCLUDES

1 night in each of Addis, Gondar and Axum  
2 nights in each of Bahir Dar, Simiens, Lalibela and Tigray

### PRICES FROM

£6,590 per person  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Rains from May - Sep, so best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Blue Nile Falls, Bahir Dar



Gelada baboon

Land of the fabled Queen of Sheba, source of the Blue Nile and the richest heritage in sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia is simply irresistible.



The sights are extraordinary - crusader castles, ancient stelae, but topping them all the 11th century rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, often referred to as the eighth wonder of the world.

As are the country's natural wonders - Lake Tana with its 37 monastery islands and the Simien Mountains, Africa's very own Grand Canyon and a vertical world of astonishing and breathtaking dimension.

How best to experience all this cultural and natural splendour? The roads may be rugged, but hire a 4WD (plus driver) and follow the 'historical route' from the shores of Lake Tana to Lalibela, taking in Gondar, the Simiens and Axum on the way.

### MORE TO SEE

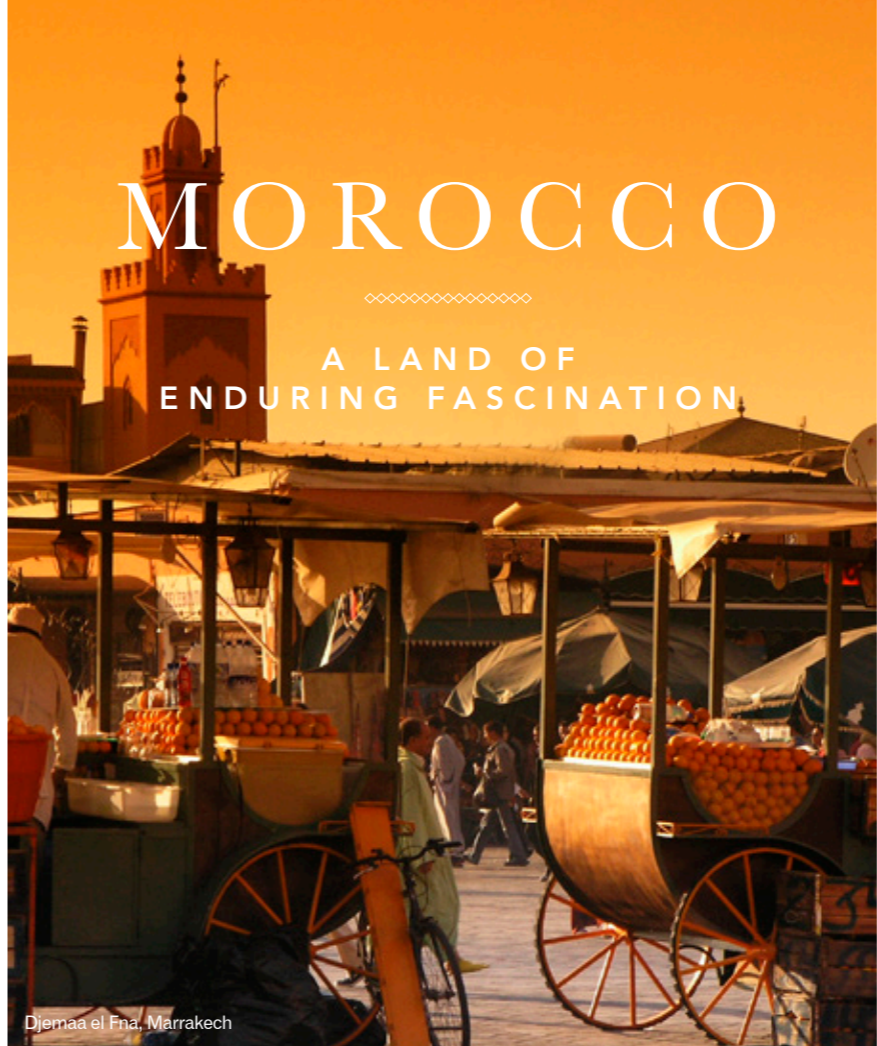
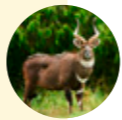
**The Simiens** - Take walking boots, poles and sleeping bags and trek for up to seven days. Challenging but hugely rewarding, with troops of the endemic Gelada baboon to keep you company.



**Gheralta Lodge** - The most sought-after address in the country and within easy reach of Tigray's spectacular cliff top churches.



**Bale Mountains** - A remotely beautiful area of moorland and cloud forest to the south of Addis. Beyond lies the Omo Valley, home to some of Africa's most colourful and traditional tribes.



Djemaa el Fna, Marrakech

# MOROCCO

A LAND OF ENDURING FASCINATION

## THE MOROCCO EXPERIENCE

9 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Les Jardins de la Medina, Marrakech  
3 nights at Kasbah Bab Ourika, High Atlas  
2 nights at Heure Bleue, Essaouira

### PRICES FROM

£1,425 per person (low season)  
£1,895 per person (high season)  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Year round, but summers are hot, so best Mar - Jun and Sep - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Kasbah Bab Ourika



Essaouira

As the nearest African destination to the UK, Morocco makes sense for a few days or longer. But although it's close to hand, it's a world away from home.



Marrakech is of course the pulse of the country, an enchanting oasis of minarets and honeycombed alleys radiating from the Djemaa el Fna square, where jugglers, acrobats, snake charmers, water sellers and story tellers perform daily. It's the biggest circus in the world.

About as good as it gets for a long weekend, you can stay here in a traditional riad at the heart of the Medina or out of town in one of the Palmeraie's very stylish spa retreats.

But Marrakech is also Morocco's gateway. Beyond the city walls and dramatically defining its horizons are the snow-capped peaks of the High Atlas, while to the west is the old Portuguese fishing port of Essaouira, its golden beaches washed clean by the ocean and perfect for some winter sun.

### MORE TO SEE

**Fez** - A mediaeval treasure house and home to the world's oldest university.

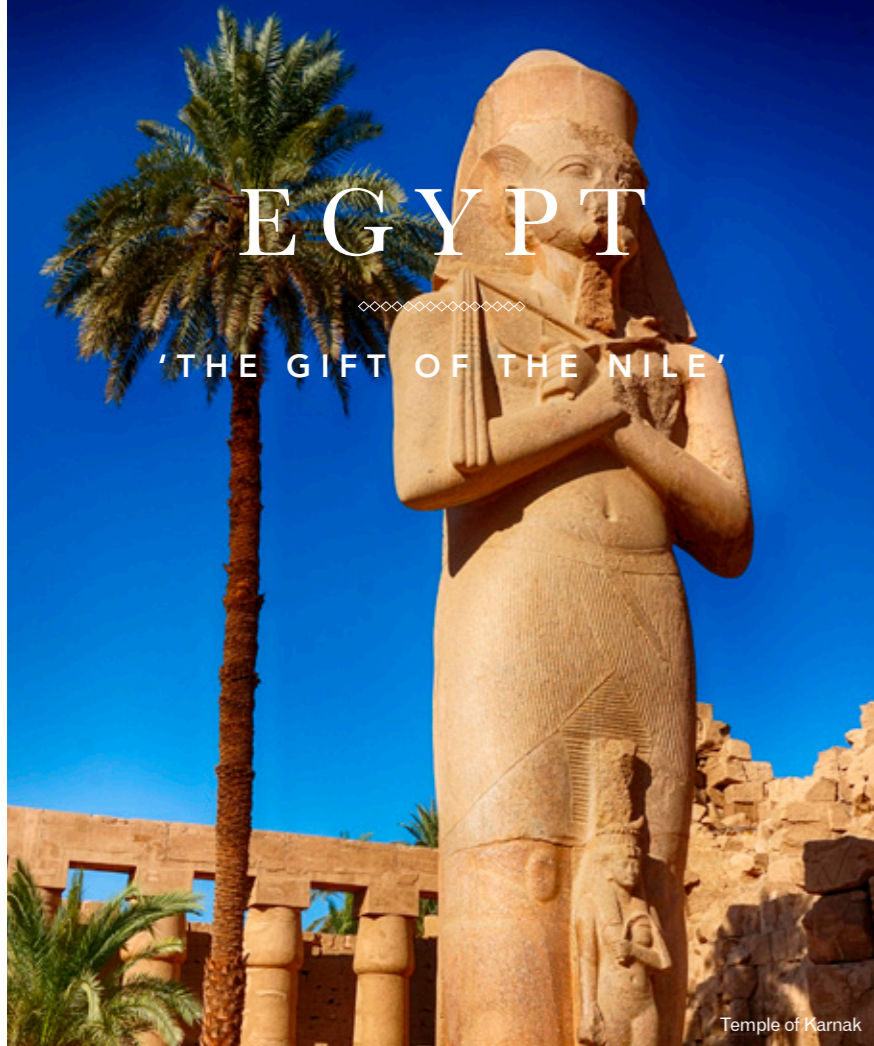


**Mt Toubkal** - The highest of all High Atlas peaks. Climb to the summit, trek around it or stay at its base in the luxurious cocoon of Richard Branson's Kasbah Tamadot.



**The 'deep south'** - Cross the Atlas to explore this 'Beau Geste' world of ochre kasbahs and grand desert landscapes.





# EGYPT

'THE GIFT OF THE NILE'

Temple of Karnak

THE EGYPT EXPERIENCE  
8 DAYS



### INCLUDES

3 nights at Mena House, Cairo  
4 night Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor aboard Oberoi Philae

### PRICES FROM

£3,375 per person  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Best to avoid the fierce heat of the long summer and travel from Sep - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Oberoi Zahra



Mena House

In the words of the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, Egypt is 'the gift of the Nile'. Without the aid of its life-giving waters, one of the world's oldest and most sophisticated civilisations would never have bloomed.

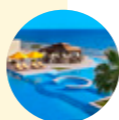


Egypt is the fabled land of the Pharaohs, where silent deserts are bordered by the blue waters of the Mediterranean to the north and the Red Sea to the east. At its heart is bustling Cairo, Africa's largest city. Here, ancient meets modern in a vibrant melting pot and edifices of all religions share the city - from the great Pyramids of the First Dynasty Pharaohs to cavernous Islamic mosques and the oldest Coptic churches in the world.

However, the journey into the rich tapestry of Egypt's past is only just beginning. Beyond lies the Nile Valley and such ancient wonders as the great Temple of Karnak and the magnificent tombs of the New Kingdom Pharaohs; best explored on a classic river cruise between Aswan and Luxor aboard either the Oberoi Philae or Zahra.

### MORE TO SEE

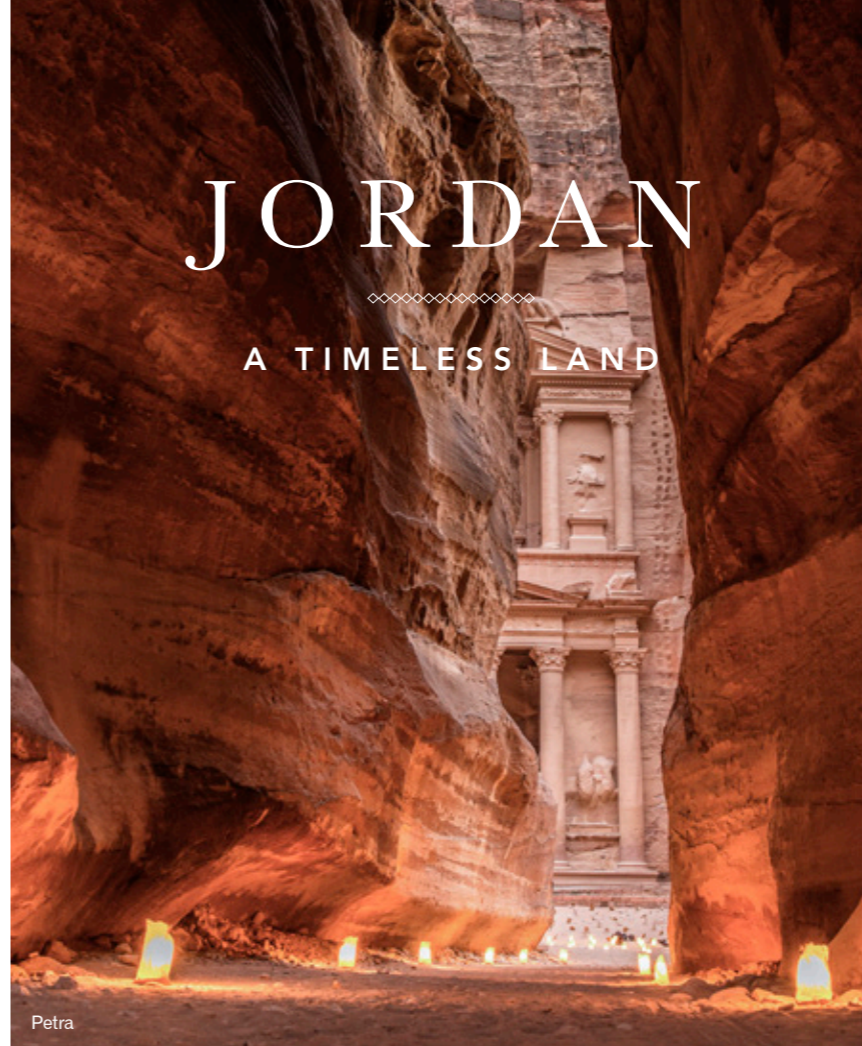
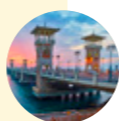
**The Red Sea** - You can wash away all that archaeological dust at one of two exclusive resorts - the Four Seasons at Sharm el Sheikh or the Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh at Hurghada.



**Abu Simbel** - Make time either before or after your Nile cruise for a side trip to these magnificent temples on the shores of Lake Nasser.



**Alexandria** - The 'Pearl of the Mediterranean', ancient city of learning, still retains much of its legendary appeal and has enjoyed something of a renaissance in recent years.



Petra

# JORDAN

A TIMELESS LAND

THE JORDAN EXPERIENCE  
8 DAYS



### INCLUDES

2 nights at Four Seasons Amman  
2 nights at Movenpick Petra  
1 night at Aicha Memories Camp, Wadi Rum  
2 nights at Kempinski Ishtar, Dead Sea

### PRICES FROM

£2,175 per person  
Includes flights

### WHEN TO GO

Winters are cold but summers bearable, so best Mar - Nov

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Jerash

With a timeless tradition of welcoming visitors, as well as its own fair share of natural and historical wonders, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan remains one of the safest countries to enjoy a quintessential Middle East experience.



In little more than a week, you can explore the ruined Roman city of Jerash with its array of colonnaded avenues, temples and theatres, follow in the footsteps of those ancient camel caravans that once plied the legendary King's Highway, camp out amidst the weathered sandstone and blood-red dunes of the Wadi Rum, and float in the salt-rich waters of the Dead Sea some 400 metres below sea level.

Of course, no visit to the Kingdom would ever be complete without a pilgrimage to Petra, built in the 3rd Century BC by the Nabateans and a carved sandstone marvel of palaces, temples and tombs that has quite remarkably withstood the test of time. Now a World Heritage Site, this iconic treasure really needs little introduction.



Wadi Rum

### MORE TO SEE

**Dana Biosphere Reserve** - Escape from it all with a day or two's trekking in the staggeringly beautiful landscapes of Jordan's largest nature reserve.



**Dive Aqaba** - Jordan's only coastal port boasts clear warm waters, vibrant coral reefs and the Red Sea's best dive sites.



# OMAN

## AN AUTHENTIC ARABIAN ADVENTURE

*“The Wahiba Sands, a Lawrence of Arabia world of immense, rolling, golden dunes that stretch for more than 100 miles”*

Rub' al Khali



Desert Nights Camp



The Chedi

### THE OMAN EXPERIENCE 10 DAYS



#### INCLUDES

- 2 nights at The Chedi, Muscat
- 1 night at Desert Nights Camp, Wahiba Sands
- 3 nights at Alila Jabal Akhdar
- 3 nights at Al Bustan Palace, Muscat

#### PRICES FROM

- £3,175 per person (low season)
- £3,975 per person (high season)
- Includes flights

#### WHEN TO GO

Fierce heat from May to Sep, so best from Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Oman - an ancient kingdom whose previous visitors included the Queen of Sheba, Job, Sinbad the Sailor and Alexander the Great - offers an authentic sense of place.



Oman is the most beautiful of all the Gulf states, with a haunting landscape of rugged peaks, lush wadis, shimmering desert sands and dramatic coastal escarpments. But it is the country's enduring cultural integrity that makes it such an alluring destination - a fascinating world of tradition steeped in age-old customs, where the pervading influence of the Bedu remains as strong as ever.

First stop, one of the luxurious beachfront hotels in Muscat (The Chedi, Al Bustan Palace and Shangri-La are best) to enjoy some guaranteed winter sun. Then head inland, either with a guide or your own 4x4, to explore a country that's a rich blend of traditional Arabian culture, historic forts, beautiful mosques and

wild mountains. Best to base yourself in the interior at Alila's stunning Jebel Akhdar resort, perched 2,000 metres above sea level with spectacular and expansive views of the Al Hajar from its horizon view suites.

Essential highlights include the ancient capital of Nizwa and its Friday morning livestock market, a sight unchanged since Biblical times; the medieval mountain oasis of Misfah on the slopes of Jabal Akhdar; the coastal town of Sur, where traditional Arabian dhows are still built; and the Wahiba Sands, a Lawrence of Arabia world of immense, rolling, golden dunes that stretch for more than 100 miles. You can spend the night here at the aptly named Desert Nights Camp under a blazing canopy of stars. Utterly romantic.

### MORE TO SEE



**Salalah** - The capital of Dhofar province in the more tropical south. Stay at Anantara's new Al Baleed Resort.



**Musandam Peninsula** - Fly to Dubai and drive across the border to the Six Senses hideaway of Zighy Bay in the north.



**Empty Quarter** - Explore the fabled Rub' al Khali on a luxury Hud Hud tented safari. No expense spared!

# ALILA JABAL AKHDAR

A SPECTACULAR CLIFF-EDGE OASIS ON OMAN'S 'GREEN MOUNTAIN'



## SOME KEY FACTS:

- Alila is a 2.5-hour drive from the international airport at Muscat, the final 45 minutes of it on a spectacular and beautifully constructed switchback mountain road.
- In addition to the Mountain View, Horizon View, Ridge View and Jabal Terrace suites, there are six Loft Suites within the main building that are ideal for families and a pair of exclusive Jabal Villas, each with two bedrooms and private pool.
- Facilities include a restaurant and separate lounge, both with outdoor tables; infinity pool and indoor plunge pool (both heated); library, gym, yoga deck and children's play centre; and Spa Alila with its extensive menu of treatments and therapies.
- Activities include hiking, from exploratory rambles in the vicinity of the resort to longer treks into the surrounding canyons, archery, mountain biking and Via Ferrata (not for the faint-hearted!).
- Excursions can also be arranged further afield to the mountain village of Misfat Al Abriyeen, the historic forts at Jabreen and Nizwa, and the 'Omani Grand Canyon' on Jebel Shams.



This fabulous retreat sits at a comfortable 2,000 metres above sea level with quite breathtaking views across the yawning canyons of the Al Hajar mountains.

**B**reathtaking probably doesn't do them justice. Wherever you may be chilling - on the private terrace of your sumptuous suite or in an open-sided cabana a deux beside the sleek infinity pool - you simply cannot ignore your surroundings for a second. Wind and water have created something really very special here amidst the 'fruit bowl of Oman' as Jebel Akhdar is known locally.

But drag yourself away from that terrace or cabana and you'll discover Spa Alila with its extensive range of ancient Balinese therapies, wonderfully inventive Middle Eastern

fare in the Juniper restaurant with its hanging lanterns and panoramic windows, and some of the finest trekking in the Middle East. Walks range from gentle canyon rim rambles to more serious ventures deep into narrow, sheer-walled wadis.

The rooms, or rather suites, also reflect Alila's natural wonders. Mountain suites are housed in the main building, while Horizon, Ridge and Jabal Terrace suites occupy the signature stone clusters that teeter on the edge of the abyss. It's some place and the stunning pictures on these pages may just give you a clue as to why!



# THE INDIAN OCEAN

WASH AWAY THAT SAFARI DUST...



The Seychelles

Palm-fringed, powder soft beaches of almost blinding whiteness; crystal clear, aquamarine lagoons that teem with countless and colourful species of fish and coral; first class sports facilities both on land and water; cutting edge spas and award-winning kitchens...wherever you safari in Africa, the indulgent pleasures of the Indian Ocean are never very far away.

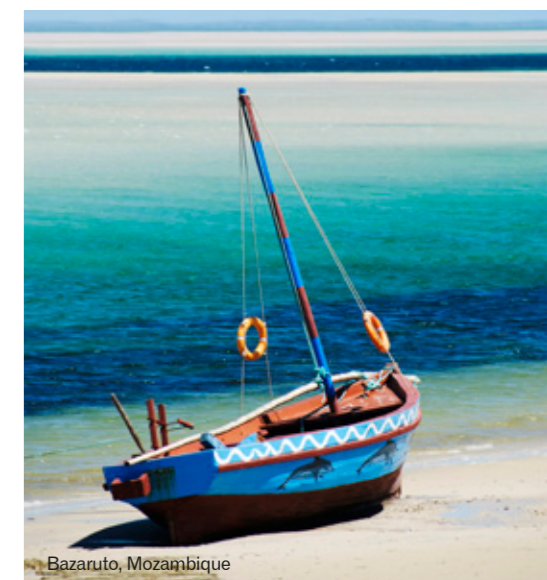
The Seychelles, for example, isolated 'a thousand miles from anywhere' but still an easy hop from East Africa; Mauritius, a tropical island paradise of coral reef, white sand beach and world class resort hotels; and Mozambique's Bazaruto and Quirimbas archipelagos - idyllic, stunningly beautiful and totally unspoilt.

And then there's Madagascar (see page 19), more a destination in its own right and home to not just the lemur but some 150,000 endemic species of flora and fauna.

So, extend your stay with some well deserved R&R after the rigours of your African adventure and you can wash away that safari dust before the long journey home.



Shangri-La's Le Touessrok, Mauritius



Bazaruto, Mozambique

# MEET THE TEAM

AND SHARE THEIR 'ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES'



SOPHIE LEVEY

“It might look a tiddler, but this Redbreast Tilapia punched well above its weight. A challenging but fun distraction from the usual morning activities in the Okavango Delta.”



TANIA PERKINS

“Cape Town from the top of Table Mountain at sunrise. Well worth getting out of bed to catch the early cable car and worthy of an 'arms out wide' celebration!”



AUGUSTA VON PREUSSEN

“Following a large, hungry pack of wild dog for mile after mile through the Botswana bush...until the inevitable impala feast. A little 'real' but over in a matter of seconds!”



CHLOE HENDERSON

“Seeking out an elderly Ethiopian priest as the only key holder to a remote Tigrayan rock church, then persuading him to open it for me alone to explore.”



NABILA CASH

“Tripping the light fantastic' along the airy cliff-top trails in Oman's spectacular Jebel Akhdar.”



SOPHIE PULLAN

“Riding across the savannah plains of East Africa. A thrilling way to interact with the game without the distracting hum of a vehicle.”



ANNA CECIL

“My first wildebeest 'river crossing' in the Masai Mara - the 'holy grail' of wildlife experiences, sought by many but witnessed by few!”



LAURA TRACE

“If waking up to a view of the Pyramids is not enough, then a camel ride around these monumental structures will leave you completely in awe.”

ESTABLISHED. TRUSTED. AT YOUR SERVICE.



## WE ARE THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL COMPANY FOR A REASON

For more than 25 years we've been creating holidays and tours that are as unique as you. And, as ever, our team of well travelled and highly experienced specialists look forward to helping you plan your next Ultimate Experience.

### TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

We are an award-winning luxury travel company, with a team of highly knowledgeable destination experts. We offer made-to-measure itineraries that cover the world.

### ESCORTED TOURS

We have tours to suit all needs. We source expert guides and lecturers. We want you to see the world differently.

### UNIQUE ESCAPES

We work with the best partners worldwide. We want you to pick a destination, tell us what you want and let us take care of the rest.

### CORPORATE TRAVEL

We provide expert, round the clock consultancy. We offer a professionally tailored service. We take the hard work out of a busy schedule.

### CHARITY CHALLENGES & GROUP EXPEDITIONS

We work with major charities and leading businesses. We offer a dedicated planning, support and advice service. We want you to challenge yourself and change lives.

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY  
CALL AN EXPERT  
+44 (0)20 7386 4646





# EXPLORE OUR WORLD



AFRICA



AUSTRALIA  
&  
NEW ZEALAND



SOUTH EAST ASIA  
&  
THE ORIENT



LATIN AMERICA  
&  
THE POLES



INDIAN  
SUBCONTINENT



CANADA  
&  
ALASKA



EUROPE & BEYOND