

RAINBOW TOURS



AFRICA



YOUR CHOICE IN AFRICA

Welcome to our 2019 Africa and Madagascar brochure; a collection of our favourite inspiring places, hotels and experiences on this magical continent. Whether you want to track gorillas in Rwanda, have your breath taken away by a herd of elephants in the Okavango Delta, or feel your heart in your mouth as you gaze upon the mighty Victoria Falls, we are here to build your dream holiday. Our first-hand knowledge of the continent comes from years of travel and a deep love of the countries we work in. Visit our website for more inspiration or call a Rainbow Tours Africa Specialist on 0207 666 1250 for expert advice.

Our Commitment to You

Every trip to Africa is special. For many people, it genuinely is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we take this responsibility seriously by doing all that we can to make sure that every holiday we create lives up to the highest expectations.

Specialist Knowledge

Our London-based team of Travel Specialists travel frequently and extensively so that they can offer expert advice to help plan your ideal Africa holiday. It's this knowledge and experience that allows us to craft personalised itineraries that perfectly suit you and your interests.

Tailor-made Journeys

We specialise in tailor-made holidays. Whether you want to stay in simple or luxurious accommodation, travel solo or with a guide, spend a week travelling or a month, we can create a holiday to fit your budget and requests. In this brochure you will find a selection of suggested itineraries. However, these are just for inspiration, and can be adapted to create your dream holiday.

Holidays Protected by ATOL

Your financial protection is important to us, which is why we are fully bonded by ATOL. Our ATOL licence (2786) protects any Rainbow Tours package that includes a flight, and ensures that your money would be refunded or that you would be repatriated in the highly unlikely event of our insolvency. We are also a member of ABTA (ABTA number V2359), which means we are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you. Also, if your holiday does not include flights, ABTA will financially protect your holiday by ensuring you receive a refund or, if your arrangements include return travel to the UK (other than flights), you are returned to the UK if your holiday cannot be provided as a result of our insolvency.

All visa, health and permit information correct as of May 2019.



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#ResponsibleRainbow

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DESTINATIONS COVERED BY RAINBOW TOURS



SOUTH AFRICA

Nowhere else in Africa can you find such a variety of attractions, such as high standards of hospitality, and the chance to see the Big Five on safari in a malaria-free zone. Many travellers choose to make their first trip a foray to Cape Town and along the Garden Route, with a safari at the end—the perfect mix of vibrant city life, winelands, beaches, forests and wildlife. It shouldn't be the only trip, though. South Africa is best savoured over multiple return journeys so you can truly appreciate the breadth of experiences this fascinating country has to offer.

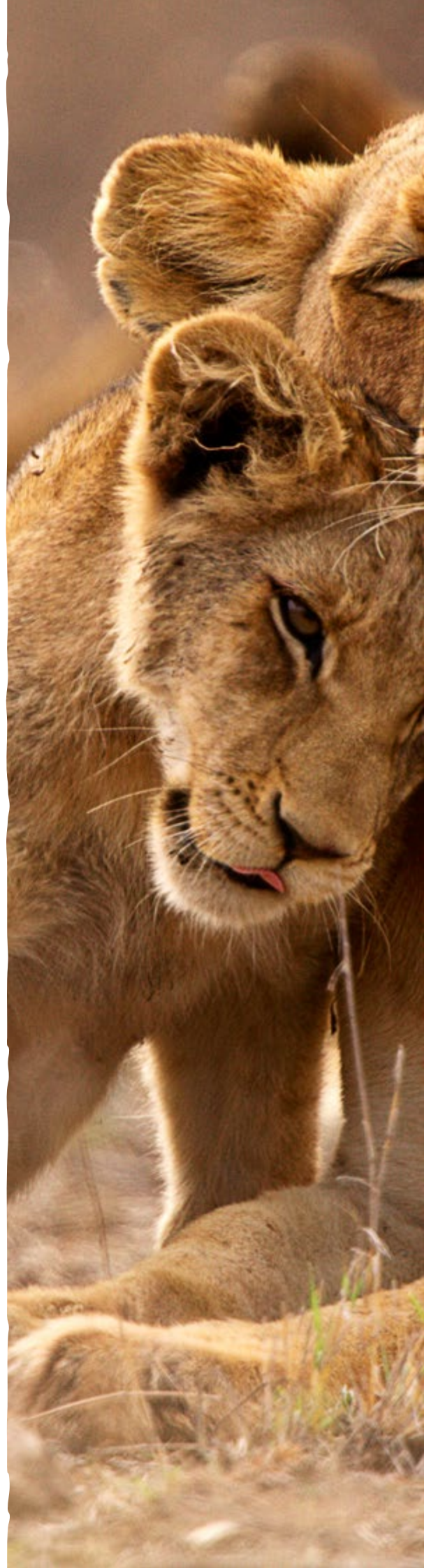
The huge wildlife reserves of Kruger and Hluhluwe in the east are very different to Cape Town and its environs but no less worth visiting. Blyde River Canyon and the Drakensbergs boast dramatic mountainous landscapes, and elsewhere in the region you'll find pristine Indian Ocean beaches, historic battlefields, and the chance to gain an insight into the lives of the Shangaan and Zulu.

The capital city, Johannesburg, should also be on the itinerary for those interested in history and culture. Visit the Apartheid Museum, Liliesleaf Farm, and the Hector Pieterse Museum. Johannesburg isn't all about the past, though. Its centre has undergone major urban regeneration following years of stagnation and is now a thriving, cosmopolitan destination full of shops, restaurants and bars.

“

In the two decades since South Africa celebrated its first democratic elections, the country has grown to become one of the world's ultimate travel destinations. Discover a mesmerising mix of awe-inspiring landscapes, stunning coastline, fascinating culture and of course prolific wildlife.

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Alternative Experiences

- Sip sundowners on the roof of the Silo Hotel and enjoy stunning views of Table Mountain and Cape Town
- Take the Franschhoek Wine Tram through the Winelands so you don't have to worry about driving
- Drink crystal clear and safe river water as you hike the Drakensberg Mountains
- Listen to moving tales of Anglo-Zulu battles, as told by the sons of historian David Rattray at Fugitives Drift Lodge
- Join a conservation team to assist with rhino tracking and tagging

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

South Africa is mainly sunny throughout the year, with seasons the reverse of those in the UK. The climate does vary between regions. The southernmost part of the Western Cape, including Cape Town, has a Mediterranean climate. Most of the rainfall occurs in the winter months. In the east, the sunshine remains year-round. Summers are hot with short, heavy rains and winters are dry and sunny though sometimes cold at night.

GETTING THERE

There are daily non-stop overnight flights between London and Johannesburg (10 ½ hours) and London and Cape Town (11 hours) with add-on fares from most regional airports. BA also flies from London to Durban (just over 11 hours) three times a week.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

British citizens do not require visas.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for South Africa.

Lioness and cub, Kruger National Park



CAPE TOWN

Cape Town and Table Mountain

Cape Town deserves its status as South Africa's most popular visitor destination. Dominating the city skyline is monumental Table Mountain, with its iconic flat top and the city lapping up against its base.

There is so much to see and do in the surrounding area. To the south is the rugged beauty of the Cape Peninsula and Cape Point. In the bay, you can visit UNESCO World Heritage-listed

Robben Island, the gaol where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years. To the north and east of Cape Town are the historic towns of the vineyard region.

But it is Cape Town itself that is the major attraction, with its captivating mix of modern living and old-world charm. The city is packed with vibrant craft markets, art galleries, boutiques, and a wide range of excellent restaurants and comfortable hotels.



△ Cape Grace | This elegant, welcoming hotel sits on a private quay between the vibrant V&A Waterfront and the tranquil yacht marina. The 120 rooms and suites are stylish, spacious and comfortable, each uniquely

designed with personalised touches to showcase the region's heritage, such as ship manifests and rare Cape Dutch antiques. The pool and deck is the perfect place to relax, as is the beautiful and calming wellness centre. Enjoy stunning views and exquisite food at the restaurant, and don't miss trying a cocktail from the bar.



△ The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa | Flanked by the majestic Twelve Apostles and Table Mountain, this hotel enjoys dramatic views over the Atlantic Ocean. Its 55 en-suite rooms and 15 suites ooze luxury, with beautiful décor and

gorgeous furniture. Take advantage of the spa and pool, and make sure to sample the extensive wine list. The restaurant and bar are both wonderful, with delicious offerings. Another lovely feature of 12A is that it's also pet friendly, so you may spot happy guests wandering with their dogs in the beautiful gardens.



△ Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel | The beautiful Mount Nelson is a Cape Town icon, with its pretty pink exterior—it was painted this colour for peace to mark the end of World War I. Its history is evident throughout the hotel in

exquisite little touches. The elegant en-suite rooms are full of charming colonial grandeur, with plenty of space and light to enjoy. The spa is a particular highlight, as is the superb food. Feast on seasonal specialities in the restaurant, indulge in afternoon high tea or sample delicious snacks by the pool.



△ The Last Word Long Beach | This intimate hideaway is the ultimate escape. Just three suites and three luxurious double rooms are available, so you can relax into total privacy and tranquillity as the Atlantic Ocean beats against an

8km stretch of unspoiled white sand outside the hotel. Enjoy the views from your private balcony and make use of your customised travel planner and chauffeur service. Service is exceptional, and the sparkling pool and sun deck is a real treat. Food here is incredibly fresh, with a range of delicious local recipes on offer.



THE WINELANDS

The scenic landscapes of the Winelands are a short drive from Cape Town and can be explored on a day out, taking lunch at one of the famous wine estates. However, many people prefer to savour the experience and prolong their stay at one of the outstanding boutique hotels and luxury guesthouses found in the region.

The most renowned Wineland towns are Stellenbosch, the second oldest town in South Africa, along with the former Huguenot settlements of Franschhoek and Paarl. Stellenbosch is a living museum to Cape Dutch architecture, and Franschhoek is a charming town settled in 1688, surrounded by mountains on three sides with vineyards down every other back street.



Majeka House | This stylish hotel offers 23 en-suite rooms across four different room categories, so there is something to suit every traveller. All rooms are chic and comfortable, with luxurious furniture and stunning décor. Two

poolside rooms benefit from a shared swimming pool, and there is a wonderful spa for maximum relaxation. The hotel's restaurant serves exquisite food in an elegant and comfortable environment, and the intimate lounge is the perfect place for pre-dinner cocktails. With superb attention to detail and excellent service, this hotel is a real treat.



Grand Dédale | Set within an award-winning wine estate at the end of a tranquil valley below historic Bainskloof Pass, this is a simply stunning hotel. Inside the elegantly-restored Dutch Cape Manor House are six luxurious rooms and

suites, all airy and luxurious. There is also a separate thatched cottage, ideal for honeymooners or simply those who want additional privacy. Service is discreet and professional, the food is delicious, and the surrounding scenery is absolutely breathtaking. This is a real gem.



Franschhoek Country House & Villas | Five-star Franschhoek Country House sits in the heart of Franschhoek Valley, a fantastic base for exploring the Winelands. The 14 rooms are a mix of rooms and cottages, all en-suite,

with beautiful amounts of space and light. There are also 12 stunning Villa Suites. The spa is tranquil and elegant, and the restaurant is thoroughly superb. Fine wines and contemporary cuisine are a welcome treat at the end of a long day exploring, and when you taste the food you will understand why this is considered a Cape classic.



The Last Word Franschhoek | This beautiful, five-star hotel encapsulates the special charm of French Provençal living, all in stunning Franschhoek. Its eight superior double rooms and two pool suites offer private,

intimate retreats in ultimate comfort. The shared areas are all elegantly designed with plenty of spaces to relax. All the food here is magnificent, but breakfasts are a particularly highlight. Tailored to each guest's individual preference, you can enjoy authentic, fresh produce and delicious baked goods. Every thoughtful little touch elevates this hotel to something truly special.



THE WHALE ROUTE

If you drive east from Cape Town for about 90 minutes, you'll reach South Africa's whale route. Here southern right whales migrate from Antarctica each year between July and November. They calve in the sheltered bays of the east coast, and Hermanus is one of the most accessible places in the world for land-based whale watching. Whales breach, lobtail and engage in courtship

rituals, sometimes no more than 30m from the shore. Although whales are the major draw to the area, there is more to see around Hermanus. You'll find magnificent coastal scenery, sandy beaches and wonderful displays of wild flowers in the spring.



Grootbos | This luxury eco-reserve is nestled in a stunning spot between mountains, forest and sea. On offer for guests are suites, the Garden Lodge, or the Forest Lodge, all extremely comfortable and welcom-

ing with beautiful designs. Explore the verdant gardens, enjoy the panoramic ocean views and make sure to save time to relax in the lounge and bar. The hotel features a swimming pool overlooking the ocean and a restaurant that serves delicious food. Service is excellent, the surroundings are tranquil, and Grootbos as a whole is really wonderful.



Harbour House Hermanus | Tucked away in Hermanus, this elegant seaside manor house offers guests plenty of choice in accommodation and a number of stunning features that really elevate it. The

rooftop pool is sensational, commanding wonderful views and benefitting from a real sense of privacy. The rooms are designed to take full advantage of the light, with airy décor and luxurious furnishings. The hotel's restaurant features lots of local produce and exceptionally fresh ingredients. It's just a short walk from the hotel to the town's top attractions including some wonderful whale watching sites.



THE GARDEN ROUTE

The route from the Winelands to Oudtshoorn traverses the scenic Little Karoo, and an exhilarating drive through the mountains brings you to the Garden Route. The Garden Route is an enchanting land of beaches, lakes, rivers, indigenous forests and mountain scenery. The historic town of Knysna, located on a circular tidal lagoon, is a particular gem, with a neat centre containing excellent shops, restaurants

and delicatessens. Just 40 minutes beyond Knysna lies Plettenberg Bay with its spectacular beaches. There are more than 70 restaurants in town and a permanent population of dolphins in the waters, making it the ideal place to relax. East of Plettenberg Bay is the Tsitsikamma Forest, a wonderland of giant yellowwood and stinkwood trees running down to a dramatic coastline of cliffs, estuaries and sandy coves.



Fancourt | Tranquil Fancourt is a beautiful leisure resort lying in 613 hectares of landscaped grounds. It boasts 115 rooms, all elegant and spacious with tasteful furnishings and plenty of light. There is plenty to keep you

busy at Fancourt, from tennis, walking and running trails, birding and fishing, to the indoor heated Roman Bath and treatments in The Spa. The three Gary Player-designed golf courses all rank in the Top 15 in South Africa. Not far from the hotel you'll find glorious swimming beaches and lots of adventure activities like mountain biking and horse riding.



Hog Hollow Country Lodge | Hog Hollow's 16 suites are tucked away in the beautiful gardens for maximum privacy, with easy access to the main house. They feature en-suite bathrooms, king-size beds that can

be swapped for twins, and private wooden decks where you can sit and enjoy the gardens and sunshine. Gorgeous touches like homemade lemon syrup and hand-baked cookies make this a highly welcoming retreat. The food is renowned for its quality, and most evenings start with aperitifs at the boma before you head into the main house to be wined and dined.



Elephants, Addo Elephant National Park

EASTERN CAPE

The Eastern Cape is largely neglected by international holidaymakers despite its myriad charms, making it relaxed, unspoilt and quiet. Vast white beaches, immense sand dunes, majestic mountains, forests, rolling pastures, river gorges, peaceful country towns, game reserves, charming seaside resorts and Xhosa villages are all found here, offering an unparalleled diversity of natural, cultural and historical treasures—a true microcosm of the country as a whole.

An excellent road network and plentiful accommodation at reasonable prices make the area easy to explore. Beautiful seaside towns like Jeffrey's Bay and St Francis Bay offer relaxation, surfing and swimming, and big game can be found once again in the vast area east of the Garden Route. Addo Elephant National Park is of special note. This unique conservation success story has helped more than 450 elephants thrive in the park, making it the most densely populated elephant reserve in Africa.



Settlers Drift | Tucked away in the Kariega wilderness, Settlers Drift is a superbly luxurious tented camp that offers the best comfort combined with wonderful safari experiences. The nine tented suites are incredibly spacious, with

opulent living and bedroom areas and en-suite bathrooms. They feature both indoor and outdoor showers and a private viewing deck. The camp has a wonderful restaurant and bar, an extensive wine cellar, a pool, boma, curio shop, and library. As if that wasn't enough, it also features a delightful swimming pool and welcome spa treatments for ultimate relaxation.



Pumba Private Game Reserve | Eco-friendly Pumba is a wonderfully intimate safari destination where you can find the Big Five as well as rare white lions, hippos, hyenas, giraffes and more. Water Lodge and Bush Lodge both offer

private en-suite chalets with stunning views, all with private game viewing decks boasting plunge pools and outdoor showers. The food is superb, with meals based on African fusion cuisine with an Eastern Cape twist. Take advantage of the wines available from the Director's Cellar, and make sure to leave time to try out the spa and gym.



Amakhala Safari Lodge | Situated in a valley of indigenous bush on the northern boundary of Amkhala Game Reserve, this wonderful thatched lodge is beautifully appointed and full of superb attention to detail and

luxurious safari comfort. The 11 rooms accommodate a maximum of 24 guests in total. Each en-suite room has a large four-poster bed, a private plunge pool and a separate lounge area. Staff are friendly and attentive, the pool offers beautiful views and the lodge has both a comfortable lounge and delightful boma for you to relax and enjoy sundowners in.



Shamwari Game Reserve | Shamwari was the first game reserve established in the area, and has won numerous awards over its lifetime, especially for conservation. Its five ecosystems support a wonderful variety of plant,

bird and animal life. There are six lodges to choose from on the reserve, all five-star standard: Long Lee Manor, Riverdene Lodge, Bayethe, Villa Lobengula, Eagles Cragg and Bushman's River Lodge. Speak to a Rainbow specialist for more information about any of the wonderful options, safe in the knowledge they are all well worth staying in.



PORT ELIZABETH & ST FRANCIS BAY

Port Elizabeth, also known as The Bay, is one of South Africa's major cities. Located in the Eastern Cape Province, it was originally founded in 1820 and is now a thriving, welcoming metropolis of more than 1.3 million people. It lies at the end of the picturesque Garden Route and makes a fantastic final stop, with beautiful beaches in the surrounding area and many

historic attractions linked by the Donkin Heritage Trail. St Francis Bay sits at the start of the Garden Route, a picturesque seaside village boasting glorious beaches, a laid-back lifestyle and some truly excellent water sports. Surrounded by the Baviaanskloof Mountains, this is a real haven and a wonderful place to unwind before or after the rest of your trip.



Hacklewood | Set in a verdant English garden in the leafy suburb of Walmer, Port Elizabeth, this luxurious hotel is set in a Victorian Manor House and is full of elegance and grace. With two reception rooms, a tiled

veranda and a sparkling swimming pool, there is plenty of space to kick back and relax. There are eight en-suite rooms, all airy and comfortable, and each individually designed with classic Victorian charm. The restaurant in the hotel is superb, in an elegant five-star setting with exquisite food, and has won several fine dining awards.



The Sands | In St Francis sits this luxurious African beach house, offering just five exclusive en-suite bedrooms. All are luxurious and elegant, with uninterrupted views of the beautiful Indian Ocean and the endless,

pristine coastline. Each room has a private deck overlooking the beach and the hotel's beautiful infinity pool. The hotel's restaurant is beautifully fronted in glass, with a thatched roof, surrounding wooden deck and a lovely central fireplace. The views are magnificent, as is the food. This is a great base from which to visit the malaria-free game reserves of the Eastern Cape.



KRUGER & THE SURROUNDS

Kruger National Park is renowned around the world for its size and the incredible game viewing opportunities found therein. Although Kruger is still worth a trip, at Rainbow we prefer the smaller (but still enormous) private reserves found on its western border: Timbavati, Thornybush, Manyeleti and Sabi Sands. Wrapping around the boundaries of the Kruger is the Panorama Route. Centred around Blyde River Canyon, the third largest canyon in the world, the route follows the natural descent from

the Great Escarpment to the Lowveld, the vast bush-clad plain that spreads to the base of the Lebombo Mountains. The stunning natural sights found here include numerous waterfalls, Bourke's Luck potholes—where the rock has been sculpted into otherworldly shapes by millennia of running water—and the Three Rondavels, great rock escarpments eroded into the shape of traditional round huts.



Rissington Inn | In the heart of the Mpumalanga Lowveld and just ten minutes in the car to the Kruger's Phabeni Gate, Rissington Inn is a welcoming and comfortable base for your trip to the famous Kruger. The

rooms are full of character, all with en-suite bathrooms and big, comfortable beds. Garden and Hillside Suites also feature spacious verandas with hammocks or daybeds. The restaurant is cosy and spacious with lovely furnishings and excellent food, while the bar is a fantastic place to sit and relax after a busy day game viewing.



Summerfields | This five-star, luxury retreat is just ten minutes from Kruger National Park and boasts 11 secluded tented suites, a luxury tented suite and a delightful Forest Suite. All are stylish, comfortable, and

wonderful places to lay your head after full days on safari. Summerfields' real highlight is the active farm with which it coexists, and which provides the fresh, organic produce you will be served in the hotel's delightful restaurant. This is the perfect getaway from hectic everyday life, with treatments available at The Rose Spa and plenty of peace and quiet.



SABI SANDS

Hippos, Sabi Sands

Named for the Sabie and Sand Rivers that flow through it, Sabi Sands National Park is a 65,000-hectare reserve that shares its southern border with Kruger National Park. Thanks to the removal of fences, animals can roam freely between the two parks and others in the area, giving you the opportunity to see just as much incredible game as you would in its more famous neighbour. In fact, as it is home to 145 animal species and a whopping 500 species of bird, Sabi Sands is a fantastic safari destination.

Here you'll find the Big Five—elephant, African lion, Cape buffalo, African leopard, and rhinoceros. Other iconic species that roam Sabi Sands are cheetah, hippopotamus, zebra, giraffe, hyena, wildebeest, and the wild dog or painted wolf. Experienced guides can lead you out on amazing safari experiences, and a wide range of lodges and camps offer plenty of options for where to lay your head at night.



Dulini Collection | The three lodges of the incredible Dulini collection are Dulini, Leadwood, and River Lodge, tucked away in a tranquil part of Sabi Sands. All embody the same spirit of sophisticated African safari luxury

with beautiful, bespoke designs and idyllic riverine settings. Intimate and exclusive, Dulini and River Lodge both have six elegant thatched suites, while Leadwood boasts just four. They are all perfect for a private getaway, with light and airy designs, superb food, and plenty of opportunity for relaxation around your exciting safari excursions.



Savanna Lodge | This longstanding Sabi Sands classic is a welcoming, luxurious lodge in the western sector of the park. Its nine stunning suites are designed with all the elegance of a classic, old-fashioned safari camp, and feature all the

modern conveniences you could wish for. The main area has a lovely, convivial bar around a stone-clad fireplace which opens on to the dining area with its elegant long table and high-back chairs. Upstairs is the second lounge area and library, with a sensational view of the waterhole. Meals are delicious and relaxed, accompanied by fine wines.



Cheetah Plains | One of the original safari lodges in Sabi Sands, this is a small and intimate hideaway that features eight thatched A-frame chalets, all with air conditioning, overhead fans, en-suite bathrooms and a private

terrace or deck in the beautiful gardens filled with indigenous flora. Food is plentiful and delicious, with a focus on hearty South African fare. The main building has two viewing decks overlooking the waterhole, a library, lounge, bar and dining area, with the lodge's swimming pool nearby. Cheetah Plains works closely with the local village to very positive effect.



Notten's Bush Camp | One of South Africa's original private game lodges, this gem is a superb family-run hideaway with nine beautifully-appointed suites, each with their own private deck. They are spacious and airy with wonderful

views on to the bush. There is an indoor lounge with a large, fully-stocked bar and extensive wine cellar, and an open-plan lounge and dining area that leads on to a wooden deck overlooking the vast plains and a waterhole. Notten's also features a swimming pool, spa, and excellent food for you to enjoy in the open-air boma or in the candlelit summer house.



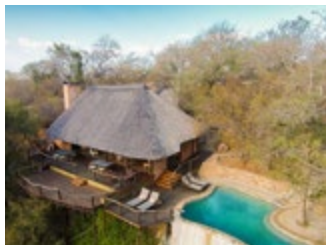
Leopard, Timbavati Game Reserve

OTHER RESERVES

Located adjacent to famed Kruger National Park, Thornybush, Makalali and Timbavati Game Reserves are all excellent alternatives to their busier neighbour. Enjoying a pleasant climate year-round, the reserves all boast fantastic safari experiences and a range of lodges, from those orientated specifically around children and families to more exclusive camps catering for adults only.

In Thornybush, watch animals pass you by as you relax at your lodge with a cocktail in hand, or join rangers in a jeep safari

or even on foot, heading into the bush for the chance to see game on its level. Makalali Reserve boasts two exceptional conservation projects: the Siyafunda Research Camp and the Siyafunda Endangered Species Project. Particularly responsible-minded travellers can even volunteer at the Research Camp to learn more about managing and protecting the animals in the reserve. At Timbavati, you'll find some of the most untouched land in the Lowveld, with a superb range of accommodation and wonderful conservation work underway.



△ Garonga Safari Camp |

This stunning, romantic camp lies to the west of Kruger National Park and is designed with incredible style to blend seamlessly into the surrounding bush. Its six breathtaking luxury tents and one suite are all beautiful

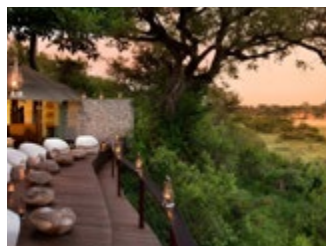
and spacious, with large, draped beds, indoor and outdoor showers, and hammocks on their private decks. With its superb combination of relaxing nature, beautiful surroundings and exceptional service, Garonga is truly special. The food and wine selection is magnificent, and the Sleep Out and Bush Bath are superb additional features.



△ Kapama |

Kapama's four lodges, nestled between the Blyde River Valley and Kruger National Park, are all equally stunning and full of exceptional charm and quality. Karula is the flagship lodge, full of light, airy spaces and offering stupendous

views from its glass-wrapped villas. Buffalo Camp sits high in the treetops, brimming with old-world luxury. Southern Camp is warm and inviting, perfect for families, with just 25 suites. River Lodge is the largest of the properties, with 64 beautiful rooms and a well-deserved reputation as being open, convivial, and wonderfully luxurious.



△ &Beyond Ngala Private Game Reserve |

With exclusive access to nearly 15,000 hectares of the Kruger, Ngala's two accommodations options are truly exceptional for a safari. Ngala Safari Lodge is a great option for families, with the

high standards of food, service and accommodation you would expect from &Beyond. It has 20 luxury thatched suites and is truly superb. Ngala Tented Camp is a romantic, intimate camp perfect for honeymooners and couples. The canvas tents are set on raised wooden decks and linked to the main guest areas by wooden walkways.



△ Thornybush |

Thornybush luxury game lodge collection has a lodge to suit every traveller, no matter your needs or priorities. 11 of its lodges sit within Thornybush Nature Reserve, a 14,500-hectare section of the Greater Kruger

National Park, brimming with exciting wildlife and beautiful landscapes. The 12th lodge is in the northern part of Sabi Sands. All are individually designed, so you are guaranteed to find the perfect one for you. Despite their variety, each features the same exceptional quality of service and thoughtful selection to produce different experiences.



KWAZULU NATAL

Stretching from Sodwana Ba to Lake St Lucia, KwaZulu Natal's unspoiled wetland parks are African wilderness at its best. Flanked by a World Heritage-listed Indian Ocean coastline and the astonishing Drakensberg Mountains, this region contains an entire world within it.

In the centre of KwaZulu Natal lies Zululand, an area rich in history, culture and tradition. A visit with one of our expert

guides to the famous battlefields of the Zulu Wars is a most moving and memorable experience.

Superb game reserves are among KwaZulu Natal's other highlights, including Hluhluwe-iMfolozi. This vast 95,000-hectare park is world-famous for its conservation work with white rhinos. There are also several excellent private reserves in the area, including Amakhosi, Thanda and Phinda Reserves.



DURBAN

Durban is the vibrant provincial capital of KwaZulu Natal and is South Africa's third city. It has much to commend it to the holidaymaker: it is a South Africa's largest working port, a surfers' paradise, an industrial hub, and also an important cricket and rugby venue. Major conferences are staged here, and it has an enormous new marine park. Thanks to its Indian heritage there are mosques, temples, spice bazaars; and its Zulu heritage is

plain to see in the African Art Centre in Tourist Junction, the BAT Centre off Victoria Embankment and when you tour KwaMashu township.

Durban boasts exceptional beaches and a stunning coastline, plenty of great restaurants and exciting bars, and the lively promenade where you'll find rickshaws, eateries and street vendors in a buzzing atmosphere.



🏠 The Oyster Box | First built in 1954 and then totally rebuilt to reopen in 2009, this Durban seaside resort is brimming with its original style, character and charm while modern technology and green initiatives turn it into the

ultimate 21st century coastal getaway. Today it is a stylish and graceful five-star hotel, decorated with stunning art and antiques. Its three restaurants serve something delicious for every palate, and there are a wide range of room types to suit every need. Its great location by the beach and lighthouse at Umhlanga provide the finishing touch to make it a real South African treasure.



🏠 Lalaria Lodge | At Lalaria you will find the ultimate in hospitable, owner-run, good-value guesthouses that used to be so prevalent across South Africa but are becoming trickier to find by the year. Set on a

cliff at Shaka's Rock, Lalaria has five elegant and spacious bedrooms, all with either sea or pool views. The owners' personal attention raises the bar even further, providing everything you might need to make your stay perfect. It's just a short walk to a protected beach where dolphins play in the water year-round, and the hotel also has a pool, two lounges, and an honesty bar.



Lions, KwaZulu Natal

KWAZULU NATAL WILDLIFE RESERVES & WETLANDS

The largest of KwaZulu Natal's reserves is the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, comprising 260,000 hectares and encompassing eight linked ecosystems and 200km of coastline, with the Marine Reserve extending five kilometres out into the waters. In St Lucia you can see all kinds of big game along with antelope, crocodiles, and even turtles if you join a night turtle-watching tour from November to February.

Along with St Lucia, you'll also find Amakhosi, Thanda and Phinda Reserves. These are all private reserves with excellent

game-spotting opportunities, including all the Big Five, and plenty of comfortable lodges and knowledgeable rangers to accompany you on safari.

The most well-known of the parks is Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, established in 1895 to help preserve the white rhinoceros. Here exceptional conservation work is carried out, but the rhinos aren't all that's on offer. You'll find the Big Five along with baboons, buffalo, zebra, elephants, and many more.



Thanda Private Game Reserve | At Thanda, the focus is split equally between the superb wildlife experiences and the rich Zulu culture. Choose between Thanda Tented Camp, which offers a wonderful bush experience in 15

stylish tents perched on the slope of a hill, with splendid views of the reserve; or Thanda Bush Villas, which all have an intimate, romantic feel with a separate lounge and a spacious bathroom featuring a huge bathtub, big enough to share, next to a wall of windows for the ultimate vista as you bathe.



Ghost Mountain Inn | This stylish, privately-owned four-star hotel is situated in Mkuze in northern KwaZulu Natal. It has 50 guest rooms to choose from, including 22 standard en-suite rooms with private patios, seven

garden rooms, and 19 executive rooms with views over the water or of the mountains. The inn boasts a swimming pool, tennis court, games room, and spa. There are also specialised programmes for children on offer, tailored to their age and interests, and interlinking rooms of all three types, making this a great place for families.



&Beyond Phinda Game Reserve | 18,000 hectare Phinda Game Reserve boasts six distinctive lodges all offering first-class service and superb dining. Forest Lodge is set in the botanically-unique sand forest with 16 beautiful chalets.

Mountain Lodge offers 20 spacious, air-conditioned chalets with superb views of the reserve. Rock Lodge has just six suites, all chiselled into the rock face overlooking Leopard Rock. Vlei Lodge's six suites overlook a "vlei" or pan system from their raised position on stilts. Zuka Lodge is for exclusive only, accommodating up to eight people. Phina Homestead is also exclusive, a stone farmhouse overlooking a green valley.



Makakatana Bay Lodge | Located in the heart of UNESCO-listed Isimangaliso Wetland Park, this privately-owned safari lodge is a superb choice for your time in KwaZulu Natal. Built in a dune forest on the banks of Lake St

Lucia, it has five private suites and one honeymoon suite. All are extremely comfortable, with big beds and en-suite bathrooms. It features a lovely pool, extensive wine cellar and a boma for bush dinners under the stars. With plenty of activities on offer, including game viewing and trips to Indian Ocean beaches, Makakatana does not disappoint.



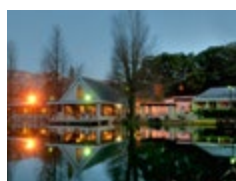
DRAKENSBURG MOUNTAINS

The Drakensberg Mountains are quite simply astonishing. Aside from the stunning landscapes, there are plenty of activities on offer, from hiking and horse riding to a host of adventure sports such as climbing and mountain biking. Furthermore, the range has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its cultural legacy—notably the 35,000 San rock art images that can be seen throughout 500 caves in the mountains.



Cathedral Peak Hotel | This classic resort hotel first opened in 1939, and has provided warm hospitality and exceptional service ever since. With numerous awards under its belt, it is perfect both for romantic

getaways and action-packed family holidays. There are a wide variety of rooms on offer, and we particularly recommend the uniquely-decorated executive suites, all set in the beautiful gardens. Every room has an en-suite bathroom and private veranda with superb mountain views. There are extensive facilities including tennis, heated and unheated swimming pools, and pony rides.



Cleopatra Mountain Farmhouse | Intimate and luxurious, this gourmet retreat is the ultimate destination for food lovers in the Drakensbergs. The owners of this welcoming lodge are renowned chefs,

and they change the menu every evening according to the season and availability of local produce. Many of the ingredients are picked from the gardens minutes before they are served. The lounge and dining room are cantilevered over the trout-filled dam and, like the rooms, offer magnificent views of the mountains.



ZULULAND & THE BATTLEFIELDS

The scenic road from the coast up into the hills winds first through sugar cane fields, then runs on through orange groves and banana plantations. These are the fertile hills of Zululand, traditional home of the Zulu people. The word Zulu means “heaven”, and Zululand (or KwaZulu) is “the place of heaven”. Although the famous battlefields are reminders of historic conflicts, this is peaceful farming country where people still

enjoy a rich culture and live pretty much the same way their ancestors have for generations.

Located midway between the coast and the Drakensbergs, this region is an ideal staging post for explorations of the battlefields and many other activities besides, including horse riding and the chance to meet the Zulu people in their homeland.



Isandlwana Lodge | Its spectacular setting high up against Nyoni Rock makes Isandlwana Lodge truly special. From the lodge, you look straight across the battlefield of Isandlwana, where 1,200 British soldiers

met their ends at the hands of the Zulu army. Built of stone, glass and thatch, this is a beautiful lodge offering first-class food and exceptional hospitality. All rooms are en-suite, with balconies that overlook some of the most breathtaking scenery in Zululand. Isandlwana has deep roots in the local community, and the Isandlwana Community Tribal Trust channels funds from the lodge directly into local schools, health facilities, and more.



Fugitives' Drift Lodge | Sat on 5,000 acres, close to Rorke's Drift, history is alive at Fugitives' Drift. A museum of the Zulu Wars as well as a lodge, the tours offered from here by the son of the late founder and the

guides are exceptionally moving. Stay in one of the luxurious cottages, all with en-suite bathrooms and private verandas that look out over the tranquil gardens. The lodge has a large swimming pool and a lovely boma where guests gather for drinks and dinner. You can also stay in intimate Fugitives' Drift Guest House, just five minutes away.



Lions, Madikwe

MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

Although not as famous as the Kruger, Madikwe enjoys popularity among safari-goers for its excellent game-viewing and its location outside the malarial zones. Roughly a four to five hour drive (or a 50-minute flight) from Johannesburg, this former scrubland has undergone careful rehabilitation to restore it to a natural bush landscape. It is also the site of the largest game translocation ever to have taken place anywhere in the world, when 8,000 animals of 28 different species were

relocated here in the 1990s. Today you can enjoy the fruits of all that hard work, with predator-viewing known to be extremely good, and plenty of superb lodges and camps on offer. Tourism has become a major income source for the communities around both Madikwe and the nearby Waterberg, so choosing Madikwe for your safari is a great way to make sure your money is flowing back into the local area and having a positive impact.



Sanctuary Makanyane Safari Lodge | Situated on private ground inside Madikwe Game Reserve, this lodge boasts luxurious accommodation, superb service and stellar cuisine complemented by a stunning selection of

wines. With space for just 16 guests, this is an intimate and exclusive lodge. Each of the eight secluded suites is designed to have minimal environmental impact, all constructed from local stone, wood and thatch. Tucked away in the riverine forest, each has a glass-walled bedroom offering uninterrupted views of the surrounding bush. The lodge has an infinity pool, gym, health and beauty treatment centre and a superb lookout point.



Buffalo Ridge Safari Lodge | This small, luxury lodge sits on Madikwe's western edge in the transition zone between the lowveld bushveld and the Kalahari thornveld, offering visitors an unusually diverse variety of wildlife.

The lodge's eight thatched chalets all enjoy uninterrupted views across the northern plains and the Inselbergs. They are beautiful and tastefully decorated, each with its own viewing deck and an outdoor shower, along with an en-suite bathroom. There are two main decks on which to enjoy sundowners and drink in the views, as well as a tranquil lounge area, dining area and swimming pool.



The Royal Madikwe | This luxury safari lodge offers superb accommodation with a wonderful, worthwhile difference: 20% of all profits generated by the lodge are reinvested into local community projects. The service is

passionate and of an extremely high quality, and the rooms are beautiful. Choose from a luxury double suite, luxury twin suite, the honeymoon suite, the Emperor Suite, and the Royal Villa. All rooms offer beautiful views, seclusion, en-suite bathrooms and private verandas. With accolades from the World Luxury Hotel Awards, Diners Club International Wine List Awards, and Lux Hospitality Awards, you are guaranteed a superb stay.



Tuningi Safari Lodge | Four luxury villas and two family suites at Tuningi sleep up to 16 guests between them, lending this five-star lodge an exclusive and intimate atmosphere. All rooms have air conditioning and fans, along

with outdoor showers and private decks overlooking the surrounding bush. The family suites further offer a lounge, kitchenette and dining area. The décor is chic but traditional, with both colonial and African influences. The lodge features an open fireplace, rim-flow pool and deck that overlooks a waterhole. Delicious dinners are served in the main lounge or under an ancient fig tree in the boma.



THE WATERBERG RESERVE

Waterberg Reserve

The Waterberg, like Madikwe, is a fantastic place to head for a safari outside the malarial zone. Here you'll find a landscape of rolling red mountains, steep gorges, rocky outcrops, flowing rivers and open plains. Big game abounds, and in fact it's sometimes said that the megafauna outnumbers the humans! Well off the beaten track, in this UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve, you'll find few crowds and no busy cities but plenty of fantastic accommodation along with excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities.

Known as "Africa's Eden", this pristine slice of mountain landscape is a must-visit for any traveller wishing to find an untouched part of the continent, where the animal kingdom still rules and where visitor numbers remain low. You can choose to hike among the mountains, head out on horseback, settle in for some superb birding or simply set out for a drive—the roads are long and winding, and afford some sensational views.



Marataba Game Reserve | Marataba spans 27,000 hectares and encompasses spectacular landscapes and an astonishing diversity of wildlife. There are just two lodges here to choose from, guaranteeing an

exclusive experience far away from bustling crowds. The Safari Lodge offers 15 luxury tented suites, with a wonderful spa and a pool, and superb mountain views from all angles. This is a great option for families, with Mack & Madi Kids' Adventure Club run by expert caregivers. Mountain Lodge is adults-only, with just five eco suites perched in the remote, fully solar-powered lodge designed with stylish Scandinavian simplicity.



Kololo Game Reserve | Experience the best of both worlds at Kololo, with the chance to enjoy plains game on the private reserve by vehicle, mountain bike or even on foot, as well as Big Five viewing on neighbouring Welgevonden Game

Reserve. There are plenty of options for accommodation, from two-person deluxe chalets to six-person bush villas with outdoor barbecues, a tented camp for the adventurous, and the Kings & Queens Villa for those seeking ultimate luxury. The two-storey main area is simple and charming, with a restaurant, lounge, bar, swimming pool, and boma, all with views over the reserve and into Welgevonden.



Ant's Nest | Lying in a natural amphitheatre in the original homestead, Ant's Nest boasts a classic, relaxed African atmosphere throughout its bedrooms, suites and spacious main areas. The gardens are stunning, the extensive

lawns and indigenous plants surrounding the pool and also hiding a thatched chill-out spot with vast sofa beds for escaping the sun's heat. The main lodge has six bedrooms and the two suites are as lovely as the superior standard rooms in classic rondavel style, along with the two standard rooms in the original homestead.



Shambala Private Game Reserve | Located just two and a half hours' drive from Johannesburg, Shambala offers a fantastic safari experience in another non-malarial private reserve. The eight chalets offer an

exclusive and private experience, perfect for travellers seeking to avoid the crowds. Each chalet is elegantly decorated in a charming Afro-French Provincial style, with en-suite bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers and a private viewing deck. All meals are included, and the food is great. Enjoy daily game activities, bush walks, sundowner cruises and magnificent stargazing opportunities.



JOHANNESBURG

Jacaranda trees, Johannesburg

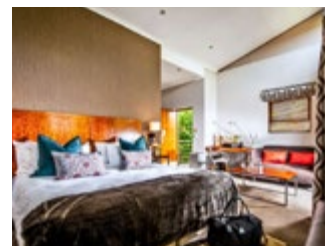
Johannesburg is a vibrant, pulsating city where more to see and do springs up each year. The main downtown tourist centre is the Newtown Cultural Precinct, where you'll find the Market Theatre, Nelson Mandela Bridge and Museum Africa, as well as restaurants, shops and markets. The leading attraction is the acclaimed Apartheid Museum, where you come face-to-face with South Africa's complex past and participate in an uplifting journey towards understanding, freedom and equality.



△ D'Oreal Grande | This excellent hotel is our top choice for an easy, comfortable overnight stay before an early flight from Johannesburg. The 196 rooms are spacious and luxurious, of exceptionally high quality and

excellent value for money. All are en-suite and are delightfully furnished. The hotel boasts a gaming house, shopping emporium, swimming pool and spa and lies just five minutes from the airport. At the hotel restaurant, you'll find delicious food and great service, all in elegant surroundings inspired by classic Roman design.

Rosebank is Johannesburg's "Covent Garden", with stylish shopping malls and quality markets selling craftwork, jewellery, fabrics and curios from all over Africa. The area also boasts art galleries, art-house cinemas, and an eclectic mix of more than 200 restaurants and coffee shops. Soweto, to the south-west of Johannesburg, is worth a day trip. This sprawling township houses most of the city's black workforce, and was the epicentre of much of the opposition to apartheid.



△ The Peech | The iconic Peech hotel is a beautiful, stylish hideaway in Johannesburg that oozes sophistication and offers the ultimate in comfort. Service is flawless and attentive and the restaurant offers simple food

exceptionally done, in laid-back and chic surroundings. A range of rooms are available, from luxury rooms spread through the hotel's gardens to classic rooms with their own private balcony or patio. The gardens are tranquil and beautiful, and the hotel's pool is a haven of serenity where you can relax or cool off after a busy day exploring the city.



Kimberley Diamond Mine

BLUE TRAIN

The Blue Train is the ultimate way to travel South Africa. Oozing luxury and favoured by celebrities, presidents and even kings, this is true luxury, a "five-star hotel on wheels". Crossing the 990 miles from Cape Town to Pretoria and back again, you can drink in the breathtaking scenery of this incredible country while relaxing in ultimate luxury, reminiscent of the classic days of train travel. It takes 27 hours to make the journey, with brunch, high tea and dinner all served on board in exceptional style. Dinner is a particularly elegant affair, with guests decked out in their finest attire, exquisite food and attentive, professional service.

“The Blue Train is the ultimate way to experience South Africa in luxury. It is elegant and sophisticated throughout.”

Over the course of the three days and two nights of travel, stop and disembark at Kimberley Station for a tour of the Kimberley Open Mine Museum, which offers a fascinating insight into South Africa's diamond mining past. Throughout, make sure to keep an eye on the views, which are ever-changing and relentlessly spellbinding.



CAPE TOWN, GARDEN ROUTE & SAFARI

This 12-night tailor-made self-drive holiday is an example of an itinerary that takes in South Africa's Cape and Garden Route. Complete your holiday with three nights on safari in the malaria-free Eastern Cape. This trip is ideal for couples who enjoy the freedom of exploring at their own pace and for families, with plenty to keep all ages busy.

Day 1 Fly to Cape Town | Depart on your overnight flight from London Heathrow to Cape Town via Johannesburg.

Days 2-4 Cape Town | Upon arrival in the early morning, collect your hire car and make the short drive to your hotel where you can have breakfast and recuperate after your flight.

We recommend a minimum of two full days to enjoy Cape Town, and more if you can spare it. You could take the breathtaking Chapman's Peak drive to the Cape Peninsula Nature Reserve, and stop at the penguin colony at Boulders Beach. Perhaps also explore Cape Town's vibrant city centre, ascend Table Mountain in either the rotating cable car or on foot, take a boat trip across to Robben Island or the seal colony from Hout Bay, or do a guided township tour.

Days 5-6 Cape Winelands | The beautiful landscape of The Winelands is a short and easy drive from Cape Town. Spend two nights staying in the heart of picturesque Franschhoek, set in a mountain valley and surrounded by vineyards. Have lunch at one of the many wine estates, sample the fine wines of the area, and visit cheese farms and even olive stores. Also worth a visit is the idyllic university town of Stellenbosch, along with lesser-known wineland towns like Paarl, Wellington and Riebeeck Kasteel to the north.

Day 7 Oudtshoorn | Travel the inland route on a full day's journey to Oudtshoorn, a well-preserved Edwardian town on the edge of the Karoo. Pass through awe-inspiring mountainous landscapes and tiny towns lost

in time such as Swellendam and Montague, and take time to enjoy a traditional lunch en route. After a longish drive (four to five hours), relax in your guesthouse in this small, beautiful town, the former ostrich capital of Africa.

Days 8-10 Garden Route | A short and spectacular drive takes you to the Garden Route proper. Pass through Knysna, famous for its lagoon and oysters, definitely worth a stop for lunch and a boat cruise. Continue towards Plettenberg Bay, which has some of the best beaches in Africa, then the stunning Tsitsikamma Forest, where you'll stay for three nights.

Find a wonderland where giant yellowwood and stinkwood run down to a coastline of cliffs and coves with glorious beaches.

Days 11-13 Amakhala Game Reserve | After breakfast, head to Amakhala Game Reserve, a 7,000-hectare reserve of great natural beauty for a three-night stay packed with scheduled morning and afternoon game drives, guided game walks, a river cruise or canoeing on the Bushman's River, as well as great food and comfortable accommodation. The game in Amakhala is plentiful and includes lion, rhino, elephant, cheetah, buffalo, giraffe, black wildebeest, zebra, tortoise and 16 antelope species, including large herds of hartebeest, eland and blesbuck.

Day 14 Fly to the UK | Drive to Port Elizabeth, return your hire car and check in for your afternoon flight to Johannesburg, to connect with an early evening flight to London Heathrow.



Cape Town





MADIKWE SAFARI & MAURITIUS BEACH

Mauritius

Experience the best of both worlds with this 14-day itinerary. Safari in South Africa's stunning Madikwe Game Reserve, where rangers have unparalleled knowledge of the local wildlife and which is safely malaria-free, before jetting off to Mauritius where you can relax in total luxury.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Johannesburg | Depart on your overnight flight from the UK to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Johannesburg to Madikwe Game Reserve | Upon arrival into Johannesburg,

check in for the light aircraft flight to Madikwe. You will be met and transferred to your lodge for a four-night stay.

Day 3 Madikwe Game Reserve | Enjoy your first day on safari in Madikwe, home to more than 13,000 animals including all the Big Five. Game drives, bush walks, birding, tracking, stargazing and bush dining are among the activities on offer.

Day 4 Madikwe Game Reserve | Brace yourselves for an early morning game drive with the superb camp rangers, who can point out not only the big animals but the smaller wildlife you may not spot yourself. After returning, have the rest of the morning at leisure and then head out for a second game drive in the afternoon.

Day 5 Madikwe Game Reserve | Spend another day exploring this fascinating park and relaxing in your camp. Due to Madikwe's location it has an unusual, lunar-like desert landscape which makes it a haven for unusual creatures like meerkats and wild dogs, which you may be lucky enough to spot.

Day 6 Madikwe to Mauritius | This morning you will be transferred to OR Tambo Johannesburg international airport for your four-hour flight to Mauritius. On arrival in to Mauritius you will be met and transferred to your deluxe, all-inclusive hotel for a seven-night stay.

Days 7-12 Mauritius | Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort is set along 300m of golden beach beside the clear turquoise waters of the lagoon. The all-inclusive here truly lives up to its name, with champagne and premium brand drinks, room service and a free massage per stay. Also included is a complimentary half-day tour, golf green fees, pastries and pancakes in the afternoon and access to the Bel Ombre Nature Reserve. You won't run out of activities to keep you busy—the resort has everything from pools to catamaran cruises, and even deep-sea fishing.

Day 13 Fly to the UK | Transfer to the airport to board your return overnight flight to the UK.

Day 14 Arrive in the UK





MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique's pristine tropical beaches are fringed with coconut palms and endless coral reefs. Holidays here have come to define the term "barefoot luxury" with the country's offering of distinctive small lodges on virtually uninhabited islands. Mozambique holidays are a fantastic choice for honeymooners seeking an escape and idyllic beach surroundings, or as the perfect complement to an exhilarating safari in Southern or East Africa.

For visitors to Mozambique, the beaches of the Bazaruto Archipelago and the remote Quirimbas Islands in the far north are the main focus. For those wanting easier access to secluded white-sand beaches, there are a number of luxury beach lodges on the Lagoon Coast in the far south, near the border with South Africa.

The unexplored and well-preserved coral reefs are a superb addition to any Mozambique itinerary. Keen divers will revel in the diverse marine life that lies just off the coast, flourishing in the warm, clear waters. Snorkelling also offers visitors an unforgettable way to experience the fascinating world

beneath the waves. With such abundant life just offshore, it's perhaps not surprising that Mozambique also boasts excellent seafood: freshly-caught piri piri prawns are a firm favourite.

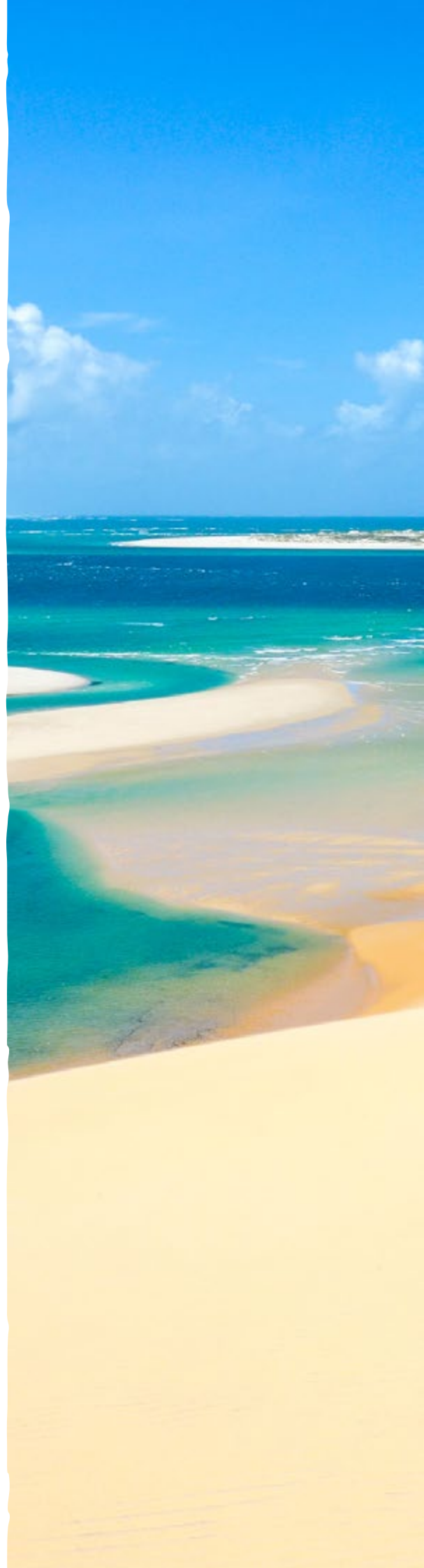
As one of the few previously Portuguese colonies in Africa, which also has Swahili and Arab influences in the north, Mozambique has a unique and fascinating cultural heritage. It is also an emerging safari destination, with lodges being restored to their former glory, looking back to a time when it rivalled South Africa's Kruger National Park.

For stays in Mozambique, we recommend beautiful White Pearl Resort, surrounded by endless, untouched beach and enchanting bush; or luxurious Machangulo Beach Lodge, which sits between three nature reserves and two marine reserves, all of them stunning.

“

Mozambique is the place for a real castaway beach holiday, with its deserted pristine beaches, outstanding diving and rewarding snorkelling.

”





Mozambique

Alternative Experiences

- Board a traditional dhow and cruise out beneath the sunset
- Take a scenic helicopter tour in Quililea
- Make time for the stunning Ibo Island Tour with its varied sights
- Follow the Baobab Island walking trail and wonder at nature's magnificence
- Kayak through the mangroves at Sencar Island

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Bazaruto and the Quirimbas are hot year-round. There is summer rainfall from December to March, with occasional cyclones in February and March. April to November is generally dry in Bazaruto, but April is still wet in the Quirimbas.

GETTING THERE

There are daily flights from Johannesburg to Maputo, or we can transfer you by road from Nelspruit, near Kruger National Park. The various islands and archipelagos are served by regular flights from Johannesburg, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Maputo. The last leg to the islands is by light aircraft, helicopter or boat.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

Visa are required for Mozambique and must be purchased in advance.

HEALTH

Mozambique is a malarial area and precautions should be taken. Yellow fever inoculations are required if arriving from East Africa.

For more information on Mozambique, please visit our website www.rainbowtours.co.uk or ring our travel specialists on 020 7666 1250.



NAMIBIA

Namibia's otherworldly landscapes play host to some equally otherworldly wildlife, sculpted by millennia battling the elements in this unforgiving country. Here, Mother Nature is at her most raw, powerful, and spectacular.

In the south, the towering red dunes of Sossussvlei rear 300m above the surrounding Namib desert. In the north west, enormous sand dunes slope down into the Atlantic on the Skeleton Coast, where the carcasses of unlucky whales and ships prove the sheer primal power of the rough seas that batter the shoreline.

In from the coast, Damaraland is a rocky desert wilderness of imposing granite domes, dramatic flat-topped mountains and fascinating caves hiding a wealth of ancient rock paintings.

In the north, tens of thousands of animals gather at the waterholes of Etosha as the dry season takes hold, creating some of the best wildlife-viewing opportunities on Earth.

There are a number of different ways to explore Namibia. Take advantage of the surprisingly excellent road system on a self-drive holiday, or hop from safari camp to safari camp in a light aircraft. You could join one of Rainbow's group tours and enjoy all the sights within the comfort of a group, or choose real luxury and let us plot you a route between small, exclusive lodges with superb wildlife-watching opportunities.

“

Namibia is a vast, arid wilderness of rocky deserts and plains, towering inselbergs and rolling sand dunes. Within this starkly beautiful landscape there is a great diversity of wildlife that has adapted to its harsh homeland.

”





Alternative Experiences

- Stargaze with an astronomer in NamibRand Nature Reserve, where there is almost no light pollution
- Get a unique perspective on the game in Etosha with a walking safari
- Learn more about Africa's big cats and the wonderful conservation and rehabilitation work done at Okinjima and the Africat Foundation
- Step back in time in Kunene as you peruse some of the 2,500 ancient bushmen rock carvings and paintings at UNESCO-listed Twyfelfontein

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Namibia enjoys year-round sunshine. From November to March it is incredibly hot, and April to October is usually recommended as the ideal travelling time.

GETTING THERE

Fly from London Heathrow to Windhoek via Frankfurt with Air Namibia, or fly BA, Virgin or SAA via Johannesburg to Windhoek.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

British citizens do not require visas.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Namibia. Malaria is present in northern Namibia.

Oryx, Sossusvlei Dunes



SOSSUSVLEI & THE DUNES

Deadvlei, Sossusvlei

The Sossusvlei dunes in the Namib Naukluft National Park are one of the wonders of Africa. Towering 300m above the surrounding desert, these dramatic red dunes are said to be the highest in the world, and the sand within some of them is up to five million years old.

The public gate to the dunes is at Sesriem, although the Kulala Lodges have their own private entrance. Most trips to Namibia include a visit to Sossusvlei to see the dunes, and a large number

of excellent lodges are on-hand to serve the needs of travellers. To see more of the Namib Desert, travel south from the dunes to the vast private Namib Rand Nature Reserve, which borders Namib Naukluft. This reserve was established to conserve the unique ecology and wildlife of the Namib Desert, and from the camps you can strike out in search of some of the iconic wildlife of the area including the hardy oryx.



Sossusvlei Lodge | In the shade of camelthorn trees, Sossusvlei Lodge blends seamlessly with its environment and has been designed with strong eco-friendly credentials. Its 45 units all offer magnificent views from their private

patios and are carefully decorated to seem at one with nature. All units have a bedroom with twin beds, a seating area, an en-suite bathroom and a vanity with power points. Make sure to try out the amazing facilities, from the pool to the Arcaia beer garden, and take time to relax on the terrace and watch out for game visiting the floodlit waterhole.



Hoodia | Hoodia Desert Lodge features just 11 luxury canvas-and-tented chalets, all built at a distance from one another to ensure maximum privacy and serenity. They feature en-suite bathrooms, private open-air showers

and generous baths, and all have private, shaded decks. The main lodge is cool and beautiful, with a shaded outside deck, a pool, a lounge area with fireplace, a sophisticated bar and a wonderful restaurant built around a central fireplace. The lodge offers plenty of excursions, including an exploration of the dunes led by a highly knowledgeable guide with a delicious picnic lunch.



Kulala Desert Lodge | Kulala Desert Lodge enjoys special proximity to the Namib Sand Sea, offering incredible views of the red dunes. The 15 thatched and canvas chalets or Kulalas are built on wooden platforms to catch the

breezes and all have en-suite bathrooms. They also have a special feature: flat tops, so guests can move upstairs and sleep under the stars. The main area has North African influences in the décor and boasts a lounge, bar, dining area, plunge pool, and a wrap-around veranda overlooking the waterhole.



Wolwedans | Perched on the edge of a 250m-high dune, it's safe to say that the views from Wolwedans Dunes Camp are sensational. The camp has deliberately been kept small and exclusive with just six tents. These

are spacious, with en-suite bathrooms and a generous deck so that you can sleep out under the stars if you wish. Staff are attentive but not intrusive, and the camp is full of little touches that really elevate it, such as bringing hot tea or coffee flasks around in the early morning so you can sit out to watch the sunrise.



SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund is Namibia's premier holiday resort, but don't let its coastal location fool you into expecting endless sunshine. The cold currents of the Atlantic meet the heat of the Namib Desert and create a fog bank, and early mornings and evenings can be cold throughout the year. This makes Swakopmund a great retreat from the heat found elsewhere in Namibia, and despite the lack of sunbathing opportunities, there's plenty to keep you busy.



Cornerstone Guesthouse |

Cornerstone Guesthouse is situated in a quiet corner of Swakopmund's Old Town, just an easy walk away from the town centre and the seafront. The service and amenities are as

good as any you'll find in a luxury chain hotel, but here they are wonderfully combined with all the charm and intimacy of a family-run B&B. The guesthouse has five double/twin rooms and two family rooms, all with private entrances, patios, and en-suite bathrooms. The guesthouse also has three self-catering apartments available, located around Swakopmund.



Sam's Giardino |

Sam's Giardino pride themselves on the small touches that elevate this charming guesthouse to something truly special, and well they should—it is a wonderful place to stay. The

staff are happy and friendly, and the food and wine exceptional. Both twin and double bed rooms are available, along with a family or honeymoon suite, all with en-suite bathrooms. The garden is a particular gem, an oasis of greenness and tranquility. Relax with sundowners from the bar before enjoying a gourmet meal in the restaurant.



SKELETON COAST

Once known as "The Land God Made in Anger" by the bushmen of the Namibian interior, the Skeleton Coast is a stark and inhospitable landscape where the desert meets the unforgiving Atlantic. It is littered with the wrecks of ships and whales driven on to the shore by the merciless surf.

Despite this—or perhaps because of it—the Skeleton Coast is a land of exceptional beauty, bleak but stunning, where you

truly feel the raw power of the Earth. The contorted rocks of Skeleton Coast Park bear the scars of the ancient splitting of Gondwanaland and the drifting and shaping of continents. There is much wildlife to be found here too, no matter how barren it appears. You can spot seals, bottlenose dolphins, whales and fantastic seabirds, including African (jackass) penguins, pelicans, petrels, gannets, cormorants and flamingos.



Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp |

Set in the northern part of Palmwag Concession and accessible only by light aircraft, Hoanib offers superb accommodation and easy access to the Skeleton Coast along with

great wildlife sightings and beautiful desert views. The beautifully-decorated seven twin-bed tents and one family unit all have en-suite bathrooms and private decks. A real highlight is the glass-fronted dining room which offers superb views as you wine and dine. Just outside you'll find the plunge pool and wooden lunch and leisure deck, while the bar, lounge and campfire all sit side-by-side under their own stylish canvas.



Shipwreck Lodge |

Shipwreck Lodge is one of the most unusual and beautiful places to stay in Namibia. Each of its 10 luxury cabins has a design influenced by the shipwrecks of the Skeleton Coast, with

stunning views of the dunes and the ocean. Each has strong eco-credentials, with light footprints and solar power. All have their own deck, wood-burning stove and en-suite bathroom. In the main building you'll find the restaurant and dining area, where you can sample the delicious food and drink while enjoying the starkly beautiful views.




ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Etosha is one of the largest game reserves in the world. This vast area of bush, savannah and salt pans has been protected since 1907 and now plays host to animals who gather at its waterholes in huge concentrations in the dry season and offer unrivalled game-viewing experiences. In Etosha you'll find all of the Big Five, with an especially high concentration of lions. Black rhinos thrive here, and the reserve


boasts one of the largest remaining populations of this critically endangered animal anywhere in Africa. There is a great range of accommodation for those staying at Etosha, from upmarket lodges in private reserves that border the main park to refurbished, government-owned rest camps within the boundaries of the reserve itself.



 **Ongava Tented Camp** | Ongava Tented Camp is an intimate camp at the centre of 30,000-hectare Ongava private game reserve on Etosha's southern boundary. Eight tasteful and comfortable traditional East

African tents open on to uninterrupted views of the surrounding bush, with thatched en-suite bathrooms featuring open-air private showers. There is a rock-and-thatch bar and dining area, a swimming pool, an open-air fireplace and a veranda. In front of the camp is a floodlit waterhole which provides excellent game viewing from the comfort of the camp.



 **Onguma Tented Camp** | The seven tents and main building that make up Onguma Tented Camp are stunningly designed, with modern textures and sleek comfort that combine seamlessly with the

natural surroundings. Drink in great views of the nearby waterhole and take advantage of the pool while enjoying exceptional service from friendly staff. From Onguma, head out for game drives in Etosha, sunset drives, interpretative bush walks, or the Onkolo Hide—or indeed stay in camp and relax with some massage therapy. This is true safari chic.




DAMARALAND

Damaraland is a rocky desert wilderness punctuated by imposing granite domes, flat-topped mountains and intriguing geological features. These features include the Petrified Forest, the volcanic Burnt Mountain and the basalt Organ Pipes. Numerous caves shelter a wealth of rock engravings and paintings. In the north, you can track elephant and rhino, as well as oryx and other species that have adapted to allow them to


thrive in the harsh desert environment. A visit to Damaraland will bring you face-to-face with the wild, desolate beauty of this intriguing part of Africa: the vast plains, dry riverbeds and bare mountains. Take nature drives into ancient valleys, set out on hikes or mountain bike rides among the towering peaks, or perhaps join your camp's rangers to track the rare and elusive desert elephant.



 **Mowani Mountain Camp** | The thatched, dome-shaped structures of Mowani Mountain Camp perfectly reflect the giant boulders amongst which they are built, creating the ambiance of a traditional African

village. Nestled in an area of exceptional natural beauty, Mowani features 12 luxury East African-style tents, a luxury room and a suite. Cool down in the manmade rock pool or soak in the sun on the deck before striking out to see the San rock paintings and engravings or perhaps even going for a hot-air balloon flight or a drive in search of the elusive desert elephant.



 **Grootberg Lodge** | Perched on the edge of the Grootberg Plateau, the lodge offers spectacular views over the Klip River Valley. It is owned in full by the local Khaodi/Hoas community, and a welcoming and

friendly atmosphere is apparent from your arrival. The 12 chalets are built from rock and thatch, all tastefully furnished and boasting private decks that look out over the gorge. From the lodge, take guided walks on the plateau, scenic drives or hikes, or perhaps track elephants and black rhinos. Visits to a traditional Himba settlement can also be arranged.




WINDHOEK

Namibia's capital city is a small, relaxed town of about 200,000 people. It lies in a valley in the exact centre of Namibia, and is well-organised and tidy, with German and South African architecture overlaid with a modern African culture. Browsing its lively markets, you'll find many handmade crafts on sale including leather and wooden goods, along with African curios. Windhoek is truly a city of contrasts. Modern skyscrapers tower

over historic buildings dating from the turn of the century and African drums and wood carvings from the north are displayed on pavements, vying for custom with the elegant shops, restaurants and beer gardens.


Although many travellers choose to head straight out of Windhoek to Etosha or Sossusvlei, we recommend staying a night or two to explore this fascinating capital.



 **Olive Grove Guesthouse** | Olive Grove is a stylish, romantic guesthouse located in a tranquil area close to the centre of Windhoek. The 11 rooms are very chic, and some have their own large veranda. There is a

relaxing open-air lounge, a spa bath, plunge pool, and serene garden that function as the perfect retreat from the bustling city. The food is served on request and is truly excellent. For those travelling with children or seeking additional privacy, there is also the self-contained, two-bedroom executive suite.



 **Omaanda** | Omaanda lies in the heart of private Zannier Reserve near Windhoek. Its ten round huts are inspired by Owambo architecture, and the camp is surrounded by stunning savannah. Take

advantage of the cosy bar, the spa, boutique, and the heated infinity swimming pool that overlooks the landscape. The restaurant is decorated with similar levels of sophistication to the rooms, and the delicious food is all inspired by the best local produce. Excursions and safaris are organised by the hotel themselves, designed specifically for each and every guest.




OKONJIMA & WATERBERG AREA

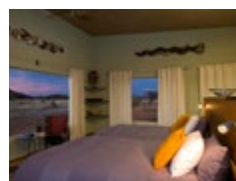
Okonjima lies roughly two hours north of Windhoek, en-route to Etosha. Here the star attraction is big cats, and you can get close to rescued cheetahs, leopards, lions and even caracals. Okonjima is the home of Africat Foundation, a conservation charity that aims to rehabilitate and release as many as possible of the big cats they rescue into new environments. When you stay in Okonjima, the cost of your accommodation goes directly


into their work, so you're helping every minute that you're there. The Okonjima Ranch has four separate properties, all offering similar activities. You can visit the cheetah project, get involved with cheetah tracking on foot under the guidance of highly-experienced rangers, and do some leopard viewing from the safety of a hide or a game-viewing vehicle.



 **Waterberg Plateau Lodge** | The secluded Waterberg Plateau Lodge is tucked on a rock terrace high up on the slope of the Waterberg. Its eight chalets are all double rooms, with an en-suite bathroom, sitting area,

private patio and plunge pool. The whole lodge benefits from spectacular vistas of the Kalahari bush savannah below, and the leafy setting provides shade and privacy. The restaurant serves a delicious set dinner menu and offers 270-degree views of the surrounds, with a fireplace, lounge, bar, and an outside observation deck to take full advantage of the views.



 **Okonjima Plains Camp** | Okonjima Main Camp is part of the Okonjima Collection. In the Main Camp, stay in a converted farmhouse—once the home of the original founders of Okonjima Ranch—that

boasts six garden, 14 standard, and 10 view rooms. In the Plains Camp Barn, you'll find the dining and lounge area, a bar, a swimming pool and a curio shop. The Barn overlooks a waterhole and the Okonjima plains, and it's the perfect place to sip sundowners while watching game come by.




FISH RIVER CANYON & LÜDERITZ

The deep south of Namibia is an incredibly harsh environment, but travelling here offers rich rewards: the splendour of the Fish River Canyon is surpassed only by the Grand Canyon in the USA, and the timeless isolation of Lüderitz will send shivers down your spine. This area is peppered with abandoned diamond mines and eerie ghost towns, and has the feeling of somewhere

almost post-apocalyptic.


Despite its arid location, Fish River rarely dries up completely, and you can undertake splendid hikes through the canyon along its banks. Be prepared, though—hiking here is not for the unfit or fainthearted. Once you are in, there's no easy way out. It takes between four and five days to complete the 85km trail.



 **Fish River Lodge** | Located in Canyon Nature Park, Fish River Lodge is perched on the edge of Fish River Canyon itself, offering unrivalled views throughout the day. The 20 comfortable, en-suite chalets all

have superb views and are set apart for maximum privacy. The main building is tastefully furnished, with many locally-made items. The food is tasty and served in front of a crackling fire in the winter or on the deck under the bright moon in the summer. A real treat is the charcoal lap pool in front of the indoor/outdoor bar area which overlooks the canyon.



 **Nest Hotel** | The Nest Hotel is a stunning beachfront property in Lüderitz, an ideal base from which to explore the area's attractions. There are 70 rooms and 3 luxurious en-suites, and the hotel also

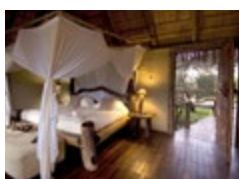
features a restaurant and cocktail bar with big terraces to enjoy sundowners on, multiple swimming pools, tranquil gardens, a sauna, and a private beach with a jetty. Most rooms have a private balcony, and all boast stunning views over the Atlantic Ocean. The sea-facing restaurant serves Namibian and international cuisine, with options for diabetics, vegetarians and children.




KAOKOKOLAND & KUNENE

Kaokokoland lies north of Etosha, stretching all the way from the reserve to the Angolan border. It is a harsh and arid landscape, home to around 18,000 Himba—semi-nomadic cattle-herders who have adapted to life in this remote region over many generations. The Himba culture and way of life remains remarkably intact, untainted by Western influences.


You're unlikely to see jeans or polo shirts here, as the Himba still prefer their traditional body coverings of butter fat and red ochre. Kaokokoland is a true wilderness of 40,000km², bordered by the Skeleton Coast to the west, Owamboland to the east, the Kunene River to the north and Damaraland to the south.



 **Serra Cafema** | Accessible only by a three-hour light aircraft flight from Windhoek, Serra Cafema might be the most remote camp in Southern Africa. It is incredibly tranquil and peaceful, tucked away in the shade of

albida trees with cool Atlantic breezes blowing in. The nine Meru-style tents sit on the riverfront, all with en-suite bathrooms and a private deck with a hammock and breathtaking views of the wilderness. The camp is rustic in style but luxurious in service and amenities, with a plunge pool, bar, and a dining room that serves delicious meals with set menus.



 **Okahirongo River Camp** | Nestled in the Kaokokoland Mountains, Okahirongo overlooks the Otupambua Rapids and offers sensational views. The five luxurious tents—four double and one

twin—along with the family suite are wood-and-canvas, offering both inside and outside showers and a viewing deck overlooking the Kunene River. The main building sits at the top of the rapids and features two lounges, a library, a curio shop, a restaurant, a swimming pool, and a spacious and relaxing sun deck. The food is African and Italian inspired, and there are always delicious South African red wines on offer to accompany it.



CLASSIC NAMIBIA SELF-DRIVE

Deadvlei

A circular, two-week self-drive takes you around Namibia's most famous highlights including Etosha National Park, Damaraland, Swakopmund and the mesmerising dunes of the Sossusvlei. Perfect for those who prefer independence and want to explore at their own pace, this itinerary can be tailored to add in or skip any areas of Namibia.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Windhoek to Okonjima | From Johannesburg, connect on to your flight to Windhoek. Upon arrival, you will be given a self-drive briefing before collecting your vehicle and setting out on the three-hour drive north to Okonjima, home of the Africat project.

Day 3 Okonjima to Etosha | Leave Okonjima and continue north to Etosha National Park. Here you'll spend two nights in Onguma Bush Camp in the 34,000-hectare private Onguma Game Reserve which has abundant wildlife and great game viewing.

Day 4 Etosha National Park | Today either do your own game drives in Etosha National Park, or head out with a professional guide in private Onguma Game Reserve. The reserve features all the Big Five minus the buffalo, and the game viewing is superb.

Day 5 Etosha National Park | Leave Onguma and head to the southern part of Etosha for a two-night stay at Okaukuejo Camp, where you can spot wildlife from the comfort of your balcony thanks to the floodlit waterholes.

Day 6 Etosha National Park | Take advantage of the congregations of animals around waterholes in Etosha, giving you the chance to see lots of different species at once—something that is rare on safari!

Day 7 Etosha to Damaraland | Depart Etosha and travel south west for a two-night stay at Grootberg. This lodge enjoys spectacular views

over the Klip River Valley and is fully owned by the local Khoadi/Hoas community.

Day 8 Damaraland | Explore this world of stark desert beauty on guided walks or, for experienced riders, on horseback. Experience the dense morning mists and discover the rich flora they feed, hike to the Klip River Springs, or head out for some elephant or black rhino tracking.

Day 9 Damaraland to Swakopmund | En-route to the bustling city of Swakopmund, visit the Petrified Forest, the Organ Pipes and the renowned rock engravings of Twyfelfontein. Swakopmund sits at the tail-end of the Skeleton Coast and offers lots of activities including kayaking from Pelican Point, which might bring you alongside seal colonies or pods of dolphins.

Day 10 Swakopmund | Enjoy another day in Swakopmund. We particularly recommend a cruise from Walvis Bay to see seals, dolphins, and excellent birdlife. You'll also get to taste authentic Namibian oysters, washed down with sparkling wine.

Day 11 Swakopmund to Sossusvlei | Leave Swakopmund for the famous dunes at Sossusvlei. You'll spend two nights here at Sossusvlei Lodge, located right by the entrance to Namib Naukluft Park with great access to the dunes from the moment the park opens in the morning.

Day 12 Sossusvlei | Wonder at the towering, bright orange dunes at Sossusvlei, walk across the quiet and eerie Deadvlei with its ghostly camelthorn trees, and even

tackle the climb up a dune for spectacular views if you're feeling adventurous.

Day 13 Sossusvlei to Windhoek | Leave Sossusvlei to make the long drive back to Windhoek. The last night is spent at the Olive Grove Guesthouse, the perfect place to recuperate after your long journey and before your flight home.

Day 14 Depart Namibia | Drive to Windhoek airport, return your hire car and check in for your flight to Johannesburg, and from there on to your overnight flight to the UK.





BOTSWANA

Roughly the size of France but with a population of just 1.8 million people, Botswana has some of Africa's last great wilderness areas. One sixth of its territory is dedicated to permanent, well-managed game sanctuaries. In the heart of these expansive, untouched areas, you will find an array of excellent camps in private concessions and national parks.

Safaris are front-and-centre in Botswana, with careful ecological and concession guidelines in place to ensure all game viewing is done responsibly. With a knowledgeable local guide, you'll be able to head off-road in tough 4x4 vehicles to follow game and drink in sights such as lion families snoozing together in the sunshine or elephants playing in the dust.

Camps and lodges in Botswana are usually remote, often accessible only by light aircraft, with a range of options to suit every interest and budget. They operate to a very high standard, with experienced rangers ready to take you out into the bush and superb food to come back to.

Botswana is a great destination for children, although there are age restrictions at some camps, and for mobile safaris children must be 12 or over. Certain lodges have family units and offer a specialist children's guide or an inventive children's programme, which can add enormously to your child's enjoyment. Speak to a Rainbow Botswana specialist for more information.

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Unfettered by fences, the wildlife of Botswana travels in vast herds across the plains of the Kalahari to the Okavango Delta, the Chobe River floodplains and salt pans of Makgadikgadi in the wet season. These national parks and private game reserves cover nearly half of the country and form a unique range of ecosystems that support a rich diversity of plant, bird and animal life.

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Alternative Experiences

- Game view from the sky on a helicopter ride over the Okavango Delta
- Enjoy sundowners “in” the Delta, sitting in the water with your shoes off watching the sky turn pink
- Wake up all your senses on a walking safari with an experienced guide in the Okavango Delta
- Count how many different species of frog you can spot from your mokoro boat
- Marvel at ancient baobab trees

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Botswana can be visited year-round. July to October is the dry season and the best time to view large herds. December to March is the green season when birding is at its best.

GETTING THERE

Fly to Johannesburg with BA, South Africa Airways or Virgin and connect with daily flights to and from Maun, Kasane, Livingstone or Victoria Falls. Alternatively fly to Cape Town and connect with an Air Botswana flight to Maun.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

British citizens do not require visas.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Botswana. Botswana is malarial and precautions should be taken.

Hippos, Okavango Delta



OKAVANGO DELTA

Impala, Okavango Delta

The Okavango River flows down from Angola into the Kalahari, where it spreads out into the world's largest inland delta. This is an oasis in the unforgiving desert, a paradise of emerald islands and azure lagoons. The Okavango Delta is one of Africa's finest safari wildlife destinations. The Moremi Game Reserve was created to preserve a unique area with a high density of wildlife, and most of the remaining land in the delta is protected by large,

unfenced private concessions.

Birdlife in the Okavango Delta is superb, and you'll also find plenty of larger animals including elephants, water buffalo, hippos and even the occasional crocodile. The best way to see all the wildlife on offer is in a motorised boat or mokoro. This is a supremely tranquil way to move around and can get you up close and personal with the animals in the park.



Camp Okavango | Camp Okavango is located on remote Nxaragha Island, tucked away in the heart of the delta. Its 11 East African-style safari tents all sit on raised wooden platforms and boast private viewing decks. The main

lodge is elegant, with a bar, lounge and library for you to relax in. From the dining room, you can head out on to the open-air patio to enjoy the views or spend your evenings around the fireplace. Make sure to make use of the camp's secluded bird-viewing hide and deck with a plunge pool, too.



Pom Pom Camp | The nine luxury tents at Pom Pom Camp are all well furnished, with semi-open bathroom facilities. The camp overlooks a beautiful, palm-fringed lagoon on the western boundary of the Moremi. The main building, built of

canvas and thatch, is very attractive, and all its lighting comes from paraffin lamps, so it lends itself to a very atmospheric safari experience. The camp also boasts a small pool area and a dedicated family unit. Lots of activities can be arranged from the camp, from mokoro trips and bush walks to guided fishing trips.



Machaba Camp | Set beside the Khwai River in the game-rich Khwai concession, this is a luxurious camp built in the classic 1950's style, with ten spacious tents all featuring en-suite

bathrooms, shaded verandas, and romantic outdoor showers. Children of all ages are welcome and two of the tents are specially designed for families. Machaba has a lovely swimming pool, a tented main area, a spa therapist with whom you can book massages and facials in your room, a library, and stunning views over the Moremi and Khwai River.



Kwando Kwara Camp | Tucked away on a forested island in a private concession bordering the Moremi Game Reserve, Kwando Kwara Camp overlooks a vast floodplain and offers superb wildlife-spotting opportunities. The

camp has been completely renovated between June 2018 and September 2019 so the nine canvas tents are newly redone and extremely comfortable, with spacious decks, indoor and outdoor showers and baths, all with views over the floodplain. At the centre of the camp you'll find the dining area, lounge, and curio shop, and at each end of the camp lies a swimming pool with a small bar and loungers.



Water buffalo, Chobe

CHOBE, LINYANTI & SAVUTE

In the north east of Botswana, the Chobe National Park and the unfenced reserves of the Linyanti, Selinda and Kwando form a vast area with incredible game-viewing opportunities. Chobe is renowned for its enormous herds of elephant and buffalo, and the lions that stalk them. In the green months, game migrates to the open grasslands of Savute and the south. From April to November, as water becomes increasingly scarce, animals return north to the permanent waters of the Chobe

River. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of elephants and buffalo take refuge on the river islands.

To the west of Chobe, the permanent water of the Kwando-Linyanti river system is also a magnet for animals in the dry season. This is an exceptionally game-rich area, characterised by riverine woodlands and open, fertile grassy plains. Following lions, wild dogs and cheetahs as they hunt the grazing animals found here is a truly thrilling safari experience.



🏠 Chobe Game Lodge |

The only permanent game lodge on the Chobe River inside the national park, Chobe Game Lodge has 44 elegant rooms, all with private patios, river views and en-suite bathrooms. The lodge's boardwalk is

famous, running along the river's edge and allowing for some of the best game viewing in Botswana. Relax on the sophisticated deck with sundowners from one of the lodge's two bars before settling down on the dining terrace for dinner. The hotel's other facilities include a pool, gym, massage room, library, and curio shop. It is stylish and luxurious throughout, and fully Ecotourism-certified.



🏠 Kwando Lagoon Camp |

On the shady banks of northern Botswana's Kwando River lies Kwando Lagoon Camp. Its eight traditional safari-style tents accommodate a maximum of 16 guests, all overlooking the water and

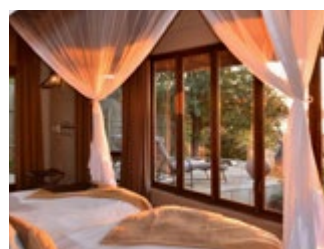
with en-suite bathrooms. The comfortable lounge and thatched dining area enjoy lovely views over the waterhole and peaceful lagoon, and the swimming pool is perfect for cooling down on hot days. Kwando Lagoon takes a relaxed approach to safari, with no set times for drives to finish and plenty of scope to strike out and do your own thing in the company of their expert guides.



🏠 Savute Safari Lodge |

The 12 wood-and-thatch chalets of Savuti Safari Lodge stand under ancient camelthorn trees on the Savuti Channel, which attracts large herds of elephants and prides of lions. The chalets are spacious and

comfortable, with a private deck, twin beds and en-suite bathrooms. In the light, airy main building you'll find the elegant lounge, dining area, library, bar, viewing deck and swimming pool, all with great views of the national park and nearby wildlife. Enjoy sundowners watching game pass by after a busy day on safari or heading out to see the nearby San rock paintings.



🏠 Ngoma Safari Lodge |

Ngoma Safari Lodge rightly prides itself on its quality and attention to detail, which make this already-exception lodge unforgettable. Eight comfortable suites add to the experience, each with its own

private deck and beautiful views of the distant river. Outdoor showers and plunge pools provide relaxation after a busy day on safari, and you can take sundowners on the sun deck before having an exquisitely-prepared dinner in the restaurant. The lodge's guides are also first-class, immensely knowledgeable and eager to share their expertise with you.




THE KALAHARI DESERT

The Kalahari Desert is the largest sand basin in the world. It lies about 1,100m above sea level and stretches 2,500km from the northern regions of South Africa through to Namibia. Rains fall between December and March, making the Central Kalahari Game Reserve the annual destination for migratory herds of zebra, wildebeest, springbok and more. They flood into the area in their thousands. The flat terrain of the Kalahari


is punctuated by a large number of pans, which vary in size and complexity. They are invaluable to wildlife, supplying the animals with nutrients from the salt and the grasses and acting as a further draw to the region. Along with ruminant animals, the Kalahari is also home to many predators, including the famous black-maned lions, jackals, cheetahs, hyenas and Cape foxes.



 **Jack's Camp** | Designed in a classic, 1940's safari-style, Jack's Camp oozes charm and elegance. There are ten spacious canvas tents with private verandas, en-suite bathrooms and indoor and outdoor showers.

Tucked away in a palm grove, their comfort and style make a wonderful contrast with the rugged and beautiful landscape that surrounds the camp. The main area boasts a sophisticated mess tent, swimming pool and a small library. Service is attentive and professional, and there are a wonderful range of activities on offer, from nature drives to quad biking.



 **Kalahari Plains Camp** | Built on the edge of a pan in south east Deception Valley, Kalahari Plains Camp has excellent eco-credentials and wonderfully comfortable accommodation. The ten canvas units are

solar powered with en-suite bathrooms and separate sleep-out platforms attached to each tent, all set on wooden platforms and cleverly designed to keep you as cool as possible. The main area is open-sided and features a dining area, bar, small library, and curio shop. Relax in the lounge or head up to the roof to take advantage of the stargazing deck.




MAKGADIKGADI & NXAI PANS

The lunar landscape of Makgadikgadi and Nxai salt pans offer a striking contrast to the lush, game-rich swathes of the Okavango Delta. This region makes a fantastic addition to a safari to the Delta, perfect for active travellers. It was once part of an enormous lake that covered much of central Botswana, and the salt pans still fill up with water during the rainy season. This turns the harsh, arid landscape into a bustling breeding


ground for flamingos and other migratory birds, making it a fantastic destination for keen birders. There's plenty to see and do during the dry season too. Explore on lightweight quad bikes, enjoy spectacular sunsets, and learn survival skills from the local San bushmen. Comfortable, responsibly-minded camps are the perfect retreat for the evenings, and game drives and bush walks are all on offer.



 **Leroo La Tau** | This wonderful camp has 12 glass-fronted chalets, all situated along the Boteti River and overlooking Makgadigadi Pans National Park. They have en-suite bathrooms and all are raised up on wooden

platforms to take full advantage of the breeze. The main lounge and dining area is stylish and inviting, with a bar where you can sip cocktails and listen to the sounds of the African bush all around you. Leroo La Tau also has a swimming pool where you can soak up the sun, and a game-viewing hide built into the bank of the river which commands sensational views.



 **Nxai Pan Camp** | Proud to be 100% solar-powered, Nxai Pan Camp has strong eco-credentials. Its nine rooms are all en-suite and specially adapted to the environment, with beautiful designs and

plenty of air and space to ensure your comfort. The camp is located in the treeline on the edge of a waterhole, so game viewing at the camp itself is excellent. However, it is well worth venturing out with Nxai Pans' expert San bushmen trackers. Staying within the camp's footprint, they will impart fascinating knowledge and advice about the bush.



Lion, Moremi Game Reserve

BOTSWANA MADE EASY

Explore three spectacular safari areas in one of the best wildlife destinations on the planet as you journey between Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Moremi Game Reserve, and the renowned Okavango Delta. Hop into a 4x4, slip out on to the river in a boat, or simply sit in your camp or lodge and watch the game wander right past your deck.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg.

Day 2 Maun to Makgadikgadi | From Johannesburg, connect on to your flight to Maun. Here you will be met by a local representative and transferred by light aircraft to Leroo La Tau lodge in Makgadikgadi Pans National Park. Spend the first evening relaxing on your private deck, watching the wildlife come and go.

Day 3 Makgadikgadi Pans National Park | Choose from morning or afternoon game viewing by boat or 4x4, accompanied by expert, knowledgeable guides who can point out incredible flora and fauna. You can also visit Khumaga Village to learn about local culture or take a guided nature walk from the lodge.

Day 4 Makgadikgadi to Moremi | Depart on a light aircraft flight to Moremi, where you will be driven to Xakanaxa Camp. This is one of the original bush camps and offers an authentic safari stay with every hotel comfort.

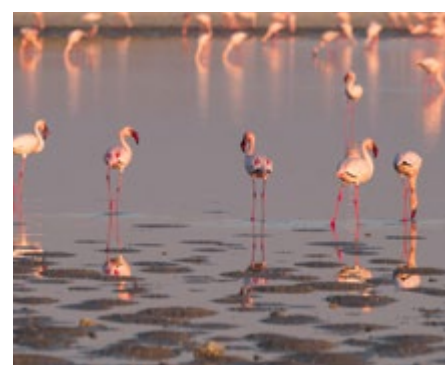
Day 5 Moremi Game Reserve | Set out on a game drive in a 4x4 or take to the water in a motorboat or mokoro to track the park's big game. This is one of the most magnificent animal sanctuaries in Africa, and the wildlife is unlikely to disappoint.

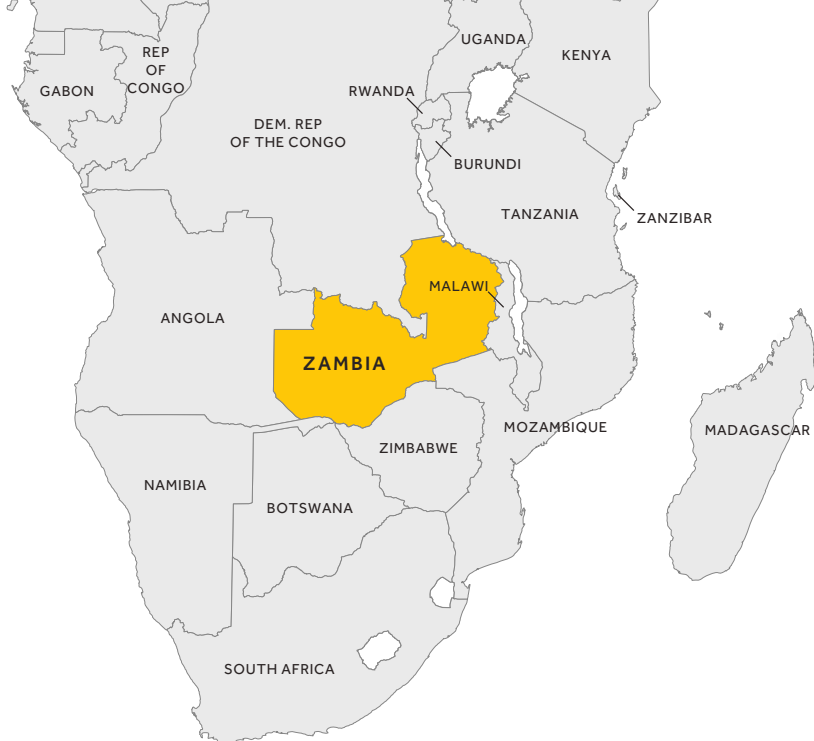
Day 6 Moremi to Nxaragha Island | Board the light aircraft flight to Camp Okavango, located on remote Nxaragha Island in the north of Moremi Game Reserve in the heart of the Okavango Delta. Sink into the peaceful, intimate ambience and enjoy the spectacular views over the watery wilderness.

Day 7 Nxaragha Island | Enjoy two safari experiences in the unique ecosystem of the Okavango Delta, a vast and ever-changing wilderness full of fascinating animals, birds and plants. Navigate through the reed-lined waterways in a motorboat or mokoro, and explore on foot with an expert guide.

Day 8 Maun to Johannesburg | Transfer back to Maun by light aircraft, then check into your flight to Johannesburg, from where you will connect on to your onward, overnight flight.

Day 9 Arrive in the UK | Arrive into London Heathrow or your regional airport after your overnight flight from Johannesburg.





ZAMBIA

Zambia is a land of endless skies. Fed by three great rivers and bordered by three massive lakes, this landlocked country has benefitted from an enlightened policy of non-intrusive, low environmental impact game viewing. It has an impressive 19 national parks, and its lush forests and plains support more than 750 bird species. Here you'll find exceptional guides and some of the best walking safaris in Africa.

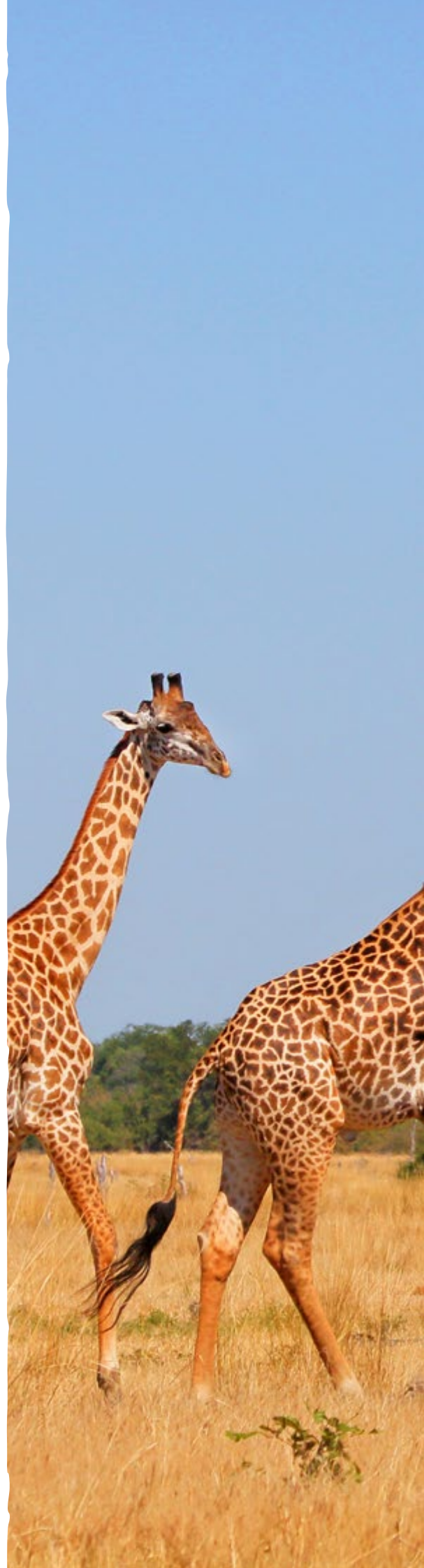
Victoria Falls is indubitably the country's best-known attraction, and easy to visit while you're in Mosioa-Tunya National Park on the Upper Zambezi. The falls are at their fullest between April and July. Downstream, beyond the falls and Lake Kariba, the Lower Zambezi National Park is an area of exceptional beauty and tranquillity with prime game-viewing opportunities.

Zambia's South Luangwa National Park in the east is renowned for the sheer volume of game to be found here as well as the rugged beauty of the surroundings. This is where the "walking safari" was born, and the guides are beyond compare.

In the centre of the country, Kafue sees fewer visitors but has the distinction of being Zambia's largest national park, with a mix of different habitats that attract many species of plains game and the predators that hunt them. The park is open from June to October and provides spectacular wildlife sighting opportunities.

A short flight east brings you to the shores of Lake Malawi, where pretty beaches give you the option to combine beach and safari despite Zambia's lack of coastline.

“*Genuinely wild national parks, abundant game, diverse landscapes of outstanding natural beauty and great guides with exceptional bushcraft make Zambia the ultimate destination for both safari enthusiasts and travellers looking for a wild and untamed escape.*”



Alternative Experiences

- Walk between bush camps in South Luangwa as part of your safari circuit. Don't worry – the lodge staff will take your bags to the next camp for you!
- Spot lechwe and puku (antelope) on the floodplains of Kafue, where you'll find many rare species
- Paddle at a safe distance between pods of hippos during a canoe safari on the Lower Zambezi
- Head to Liuwa Plain, one of the most exclusive and remote parts of Zambia, and sleep out under immensely bright stars

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

May to October is the dry winter period with warm, sunny days and chilly nights. This is the season for walking safaris, with the best game viewing. From November to April it is "the Emerald Season" when the rains come, and remote areas become difficult to access. Rains are typically short and heavy followed by warm sunshine.

GETTING THERE

There are daily flights via Nairobi to Lusaka and via Johannesburg to both Lusaka and Livingstone. Emirates also fly regularly via Dubai to Lusaka. From these hubs, a flight network takes you to the wilderness areas.

GMT


+2 hours

VISAS

British citizens can obtain visas on arrival. They cost from US\$55 for single entry.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Zambia. Malaria is present across the country. When entering South Africa from Zambia, a yellow fever certificate will be required.



Thornicroft's giraffes, South Luangwa National Park



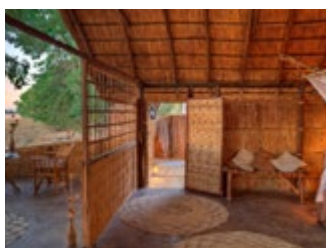
SOUTH LUANGWA

Hippo, South Luangwa

The lush Luangwa Valley marks the southern end of the Great Rift Valley. The meandering Luangwa River and its lagoons support one of the highest concentrations of game in Africa. Numerous crocodiles and hippos inhabit the river and waterways, and enormous herds of elephant and buffalo coexist with 14 species of antelope. The valley's endemic subspecies include the striking Thornicroft's giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest, and lions, leopards, caracals and serval prey on the

abundant herbivores. The sheer richness of game makes this a prime safari destination, and renowned local guides are available to improve the experience even further.

Most of South Luangwa's lodges are set along the east bank of the Luangwa River, whilst game drives and walking safaris take place on the west bank. Luangwa is noted for its walking safaris in particular, so we recommend you undertake one if you get the chance.



Luwi Bush Camp | Luwi Bush Camp is a seasonal, intimate camp on the banks of a permanent lagoon, the most remote of the Norman Carr Safaris camps. With just four spacious reed-and-thatch rooms, you are guaranteed

seclusion. Each room is individual, its design determined by the tree around which it was constructed. All four rooms are en-suite, one is a double, and three are twin beds. The camp has a small, thatched, open-sided bar area and no dining area—instead, daytime meals are taken in the shade of the enormous mahogany trees and at night beneath a canopy of stars.



Nkwali | Nkwali is a superb lodge, part of the Robin Pope Safaris group. The site is dominated by an enormous ebony tree, around which the bar was built, lending a unique character to this already-impressive lodge. The six chalets are spacious

and stylish, all with en-suite bathrooms and magnificent river views thanks to the doors that fold all the way back and open up the front. The dining room and swimming pool are set back from the river by the lagoon. Animals wander to and from the lagoon to drink during the day, offering incredible viewing opportunities.



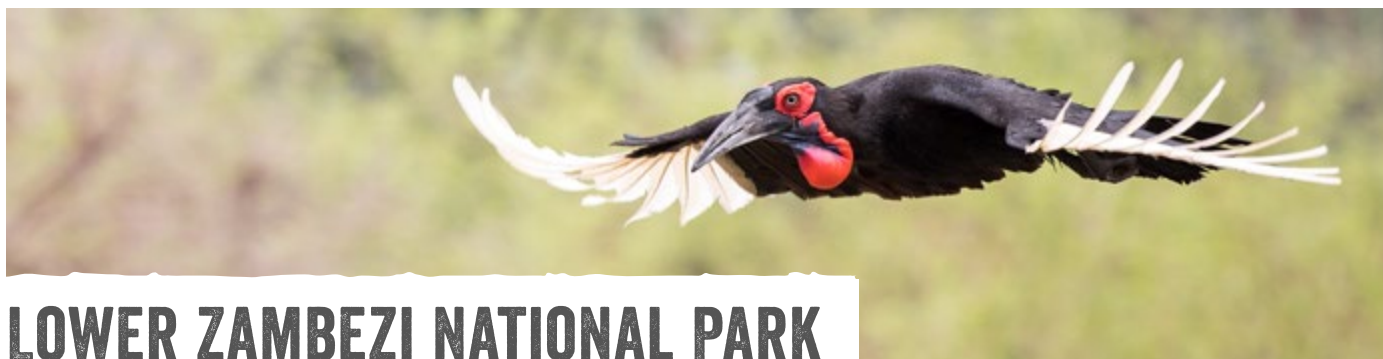
Chinzombo Safari Camp | Chinzombo is a wonderfully luxurious safari camp set in 24 hectares of private Luangwa River frontage. It is modern but carefully designed to fit in perfectly with the bush, and its six villas all have

spacious living areas, cool bedrooms, large bathrooms, WiFi, and private plunge pools on shady decks overlooking the river. Décor is simple and minimal with nods to tradition and local cultural history, both in the villas and in the lounge, dining, bar and fire pit area that lies in the shade of the msikzi trees.



Tena Tena | Tena Tena is Robin Pope Safaris' flagship camp and remains a firm favourite with safari lovers. It sits on the banks of the Luangwa River under a thick grove of mahogany trees and features just six tents, all spaced

widely to ensure maximum privacy. They all have spacious, open en-suite bathrooms and verandas with their own sitting area, and all offer superb views on to the river. The main area is moulded around a large termite mound and mahogany tree, with plenty of different spaces to relax and unwind after a long day's safari.



LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

The Zambezi River thunders over Victoria Falls, zigzags through Batoka Gorge, flows into Lake Kariba and then continues more sedately eastwards through the Lower Zambezi Valley. Flanked by national parks, this remote section of the river is one of exceptional natural beauty. The floodplains, broadleaf woodland and dense riverine forest support a wide variety of antelope, hippos, crocodiles and large elephant herds.



△ Royal Zambezi Lodge | This Lodge sits on the widest point of the river with spectacular views. Its ten tented suites are luxurious and contemporary, with en-suite bathrooms and elegant furnishings. A further

four deluxe suites have outside showers, copper baths, plunge pools and private salas. The meals are particularly good here and can be taken under the stars, by the fire, on your private deck, or even as a bush banquet in Lower Zambezi Park. The lodge also features an exceptional spa.



△ Chongwe River Camp | At the confluence of the Chongwe and Zambezi Rivers, this is a family-owned and managed camp that offers great game-viewing experiences, along with superb tiger fish

angling and spectacular views. The eight Mulati tents are shaded by thorn trees, with well-appointed interiors. The camp features plenty of shady sitting areas for you to relax in, along with a pool and a campfire to gather around. This is a no-fuss camp that gets you extremely close to the bush, offering relative simplicity that does not skimp on comfort or service.



KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

Kafue National Park is the largest national park in Zambia, located on an undulating plateau cut through by multiple rivers. To give you an idea of its vast scale: it's bigger than the whole of Wales! Within its bounds are contained a variety of different environments, from woodlands to grassy dambos wetlands. The various landscapes are ideal habitats for game, and Kafue's residents include rare antelope such as sable, eland, oribi, roan and Defassa waterbuck.



△ KaingU Safari Lodge | This owner-run lodge is set in the heart of the African bush, its design carefully managed to ensure its comfortable accommodation blends in with the wild surroundings. The lodge

has Meru-style tents with en-suite bathrooms, all set on private wooden decks overlooking the Kafue River. There is also a family house with two bedrooms and a central living area opening on to a private deck. The thatched central area has a lounge, dining area and bar all attached to a redwood deck built out over the river; a perfect setting for sundowners, dinner, or just some relaxation.



△ Busanga Bush Camp | Designed to feel like a classic, rustic bush camp, Busanga is a secluded and comfortable retreat that offers excellent game viewing with its knowledgeable guides. Its four tents are comfortable and

attractive, with plenty of space and lots of atmosphere. The lounge and bar area is tented and both this part of the camp and the rooms sit under a grove of magnificent fig trees, with spectacular views over the grassy floodplain. From the camp you can undertake a variety of game-viewing experiences including hot-air balloon rides, game drives, and walking safaris.



Victoria Falls

VICTORIA FALLS & LIVINGSTONE

Designated one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, the Victoria Falls are simply breathtaking. The name given to them in the local Lozi language is intensely evocative: Mosi-O-Tunye, "The Smoke That Thunders". The spray billowing up where the Zambezi plunges into the mile-wide ravine can be seen for miles around.

Rainforest thrives in the mist from the falls, and dozens of excellent viewpoints can be accessed via paths that thread between the trees. The ultimate view, though, of Victoria Falls comes from the air. Traversing the falls in a light aircraft or helicopter is known as "The Flight of the Angels", and it is beyond compare.

Trips to Victoria Falls start from Livingstone, 10km away. Livingstone was founded in 1907 and was Zambia's capital in pre-colonial times. Today it is a lively town with good public transport links to and from the falls, although most visitors choose to travel there privately.

“
There is a reason that the Victoria Falls make almost every list of natural wonders. These astonishing falls thunder over the edge in a great and deafening roar, sending up spray that can be seen for miles. No picture or video can prepare you for the sheer might and magnificence of Victoria Falls in person.
”



🏡 Tongabezi Lodge |

Located just upstream from Victoria Falls, Tongabezi Lodge is the last word in luxury. Six private houses and five River Cottages are nestled on the banks of the Zambezi River, and all

afford you your own private valet for the duration of your stay. The designs are stylish, comfortable and full of tiny details that really elevate your stay. The food is incredible, the service amazing, and the setting so close to the falls is exceptional. There is also a honeymoon house that has been described as 'worth getting married for!'



🏡 The Royal Livingstone |

This five-star hotel by Anantara stands on the banks of the Zambezi River close to the falls. You can actually see the spray from the hotel. It has 173 rooms, all air-conditioned with their own private balcony or terrace

and sensational views of the river and beyond. The swimming pool and Royal Spa are also on the banks of the river, so the views there are fantastic too. There are several restaurants to choose from, all serving wonderful food, along with multiple places to sit and enjoy sundowners. Don't miss High Tea, served in the grand, colonial-style lounge.



🏡 Sanctuary Sussi and Chuma |

This exclusive lodge on the banks of the Zambezi is only ten minutes upstream from Victoria Falls. It boasts 12 luxury tree houses built into the shady canopy of giant ebony trees, each with private river

views from their decks. The rooms are linked to the main lodge via raised walkways, so visiting elephants and hippos have free access without compromising safety. The main lodge has a bar and a lounge on the upper floor and an open-air dining area below which leads down to a swimming pool and lawns at the water's edge.



Hippos, Okavango Delta

CLASSIC ZAMBIA SAFARI & VICTORIA FALLS

Set out for your safari adventure in Lower Zambezi National Park and South Luangwa National Park, which between them encompass a huge range of habitats and landscapes, all of them alive with animals and birds. Spread your time between a variety of superb camps, and round the whole trip off with a visit to iconic Victoria Falls.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from London Heathrow to Lusaka via Johannesburg or Nairobi.

Day 2 Lusaka to South Luangwa | After arriving in the mid-morning, you will be met for the connecting flight to Mfuwe in South Luangwa.

The drive to Lion Camp, where you'll spend the next three nights, takes you past cultivated fields, colourful villages, and plenty of wild bush.

Days 3-4 South Luangwa National Park | Make the most of your two full days in South Luangwa with early morning and late afternoon game drives to see as much exciting wildlife as possible. The Luangwa River, with its ox-bow lagoons and dead-end tributaries, supports one of the highest concentrations of game in Africa. You may see herds of elephant and buffalo, sable antelope, striking Thornicroft's giraffes, lions and perhaps even leopards.

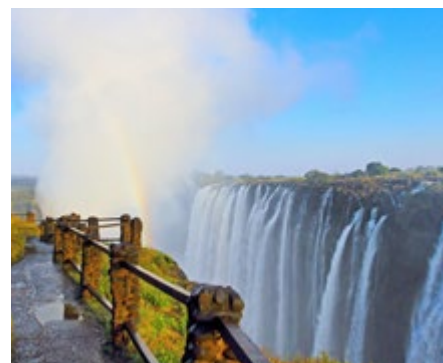
Day 5 South Luangwa to Lower Zambezi | Enjoy a morning game drive and breakfast before transferring to Mfuwe via Lusaka for the light aircraft flight to the Lower Zambezi. Watch out of the window as you come in, and try to spot the large game wandering around the river and its many islands.

Days 6-7 Lower Zambezi National Park | With three nights in a stylish chalet at Kasaka River Lodge, make the most of your time on safari in the Lower Zambezi. Bask in its tranquillity, head out for canoe or boat safaris, and keep your eyes constantly peeled for exciting game like zebras, eland, lions and many special bird species.

Day 8 Lower Zambezi to Victoria Falls | After breakfast and a morning game drive, transfer to the airstrip for the light aircraft flight to Livingstone, again via Lusaka. Here you will be met and transferred to Waterberry Zambezi Lodge for three lovely nights.

Days 9-10 Victoria Falls | There are lots of activities on offer from Waterberry Lodge, including a visit to the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, fishing trips, picnics on the island in the river, guided birding or village walks and excursions into Livingstone for the local shops and markets.

Day 11 Fly to the UK | Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight back to the UK via Johannesburg or Nairobi.





ZIMBABWE

Visitors will be spellbound by the sheer beauty, drama and diversity of Zimbabwe, from the magnificence of the Victoria Falls and thrilling Big Five sightings in Hwange to the dramatic granite hills of Matobo and the vast stone ruins of Great Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's place as a top safari destination is cemented by its peerless climate, excellent hotels and lodges, highly skilled guides and good transport links. From the incredible Victoria Falls, it's just three hours south by road to the famous game reserve, Hwange National Park, where you can watch the Big Five roam to your heart's content.

Another three hours south by road brings you to the Matobo Hills, an extraordinary landscape of granite kopjes that is home to more than 3,000 ancient Khoisan rock art sites and the tomb of Cecil John Rhodes. If you'd like to learn more about Zimbabwe's history, the imposing stone ruins of Great Zimbabwe (1100 to 1450 AD) are located in the east of the country at Masvingo and should not be missed.

Lake Kariba on Zimbabwe's northern border is the perfect destination for families, with plenty of sunshine, wildlife and water sports.

Best of all, most of the lodges we use in Zimbabwe work closely with their local communities, and lodge revenues go straight back into the local economy. When you travel with us in Zimbabwe, you know you're doing your part to encourage sustainable tourism and help local people take control of their futures.

“
Cradled between the Limpopo River in the south and the mighty Zambezi River in the north, Zimbabwe is a safe, diverse destination famous for its superb game viewing, adventure tourism and breathtaking natural landscapes.
”





Alternative Experiences

- Bungee jump off the bridge at Victoria Falls
- Take a tour on a traditional steam train
- Take a polo lesson in Harare
- Take a sunset cruise along the Zambezi River
- Strike out to one of the many townships to see everyday Zimbabwean life

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Zimbabwe has a warm climate year-round. Optimum game viewing occurs in the dry winter period from May to October. December to April is a time of plenty when mammals give birth and migrant birds arrive in droves. Expect sudden, short downpours followed by warm sunshine. Victoria Falls are at their fullest from December to May.

GETTING THERE

Kenya Airways flies daily to the capital Harare via Nairobi. There are daily flights via Johannesburg to Victoria Falls, Bulawayo and Harare on SAA, BA and Virgin. Emirates fly to Harare via Dubai and Lusaka. From these hubs, a flight network takes you to the wilderness areas.

GMT

+2 hours

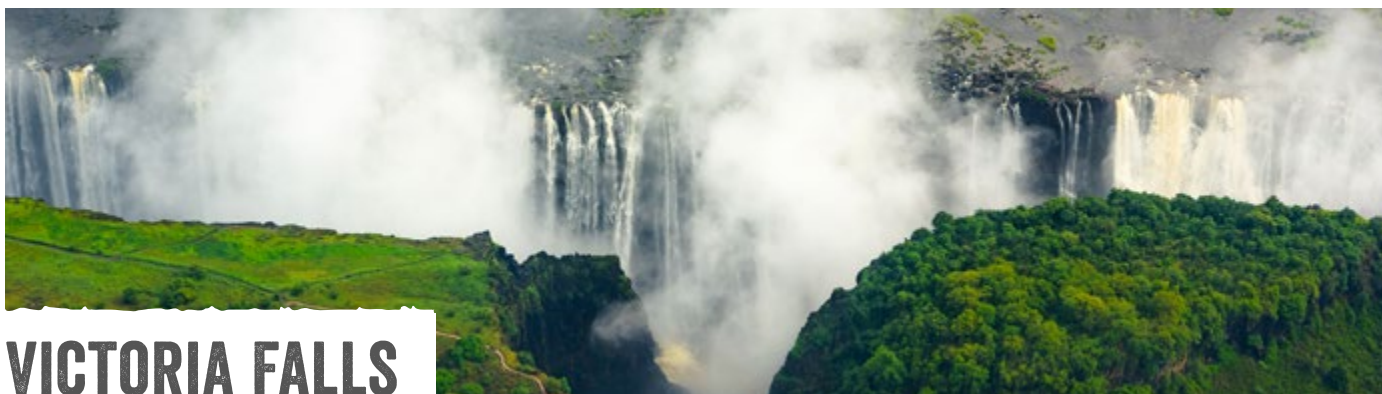
VISAS

British citizens can obtain visas on arrival. These cost from US\$55. A KAZA UNIVISA can also be bought and is valid for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Zimbabwe. Malaria is present throughout the country.

Victoria Falls




VICTORIA FALLS

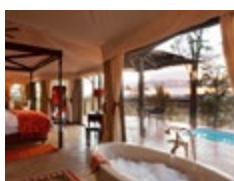
Most trips to Zimbabwe and Boswana either start or end at the iconic Victoria Falls. The dramatic thundering of the tumultuous, cascading waters more than compensates for the drenching you'll get from the spray! We recommend at least two or three nights here to fully take advantage of everything on offer. There is much debate over whether the view of the falls is better


from the Zambian or Zimbabwean side, but both have their advantages. For the price of a transit visa fee, it is easy to view the falls from both sides thanks to Zimbabwe's amicable cross-border relationship with Zambia, so you can decide for yourself which you prefer.



 **Victoria Falls Hotel** | More than 100 years old, the Victoria Falls Hotel continues to host discerning travellers from across the world with style and grace. With unrivalled views of the gorges just below the

falls, this is a true institution and is deservedly a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. Take High Tea or G&Ts on Stanley's Terrace, dine in The Livingstone Room and then in the morning explore the Stone Dynamics Art Gallery. Its 161 rooms and suites are sophisticated and spacious, and the service is impeccable.



 **The Elephant Camp** | Tucked away on a private game reserve just a ten-minute drive from Victoria Falls, The Elephant Camp is secluded, eco-friendly and luxurious, with just 12 luxury canvas suites. All

have en-suites with both indoor and outdoor showers, huge baths, four-poster beds and terraces with private plunge pools. Classy tented pavilions house the dining room, lounge, and bar, and the desk has a rim-flow pool overlooking the natural waterhole. Best of all, guests can interact with the rescued and rehabilitated elephants.




HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

A trip to Hwange National Park is a natural combination with Victoria Falls, as they are only three hours apart by road—or just 20 minutes in a light aircraft. A number of comfortable camps and lodges in remote locations make Hwange the ultimate wilderness experience, with little chance encountering the crowds found in many of Africa's other significant parks. Hwange covers a monumental 14,650km² and has a huge


variety of climates, from the arid expanses of the Kalahari Desert in the south to dense, lush teak forest and granite hills in the north. Particular highlights are the large herds of elephant and buffalo, rare roan and sable antelope, rhinos, and predators such as lions, leopards and cheetahs. Lucky visitors may even spot rare spotted hyenas and wild dogs.



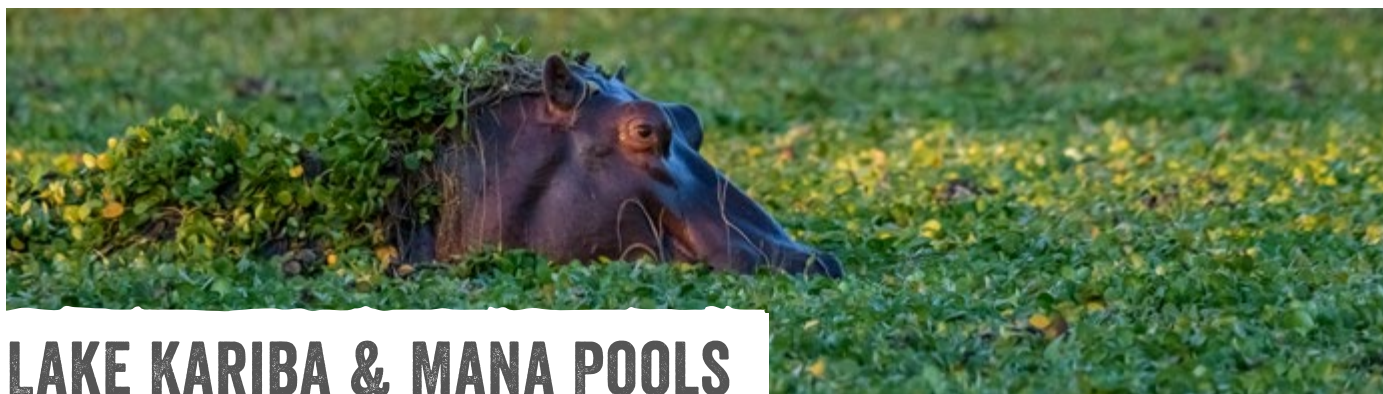
 **Somalisa Camp** | At Somalisa, the people are the heart of the camp. Staff and guides are knowledgeable and passionate, part of a community that will enfold you in a warm welcome when you arrive. The seven

canvas tents are tastefully furnished with organic touches such as natural wood and copper, all extremely comfortable and featuring en-suite bathrooms. The main area features a pool as well as an expansive deck beside an elephant pool, so you can sit and sip sundowners from the bar as families of elephants drink and splash in front of you.



 **Nehimba Lodge** | This seasonal lodge on a private concession combines luxury and elegance with African charm, creating an exceptional safari experience. With just nine thatched tents built on teak

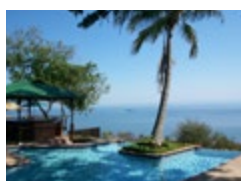
platforms, this is an intimate and exclusive retreat. The tents all have en-suite bathrooms, outdoor showers and private balconies, and are airy and tastefully furnished. Both the tents and the main guest area overlook Nehimba Pan, with stunning views. The swimming pool and its sundeck overlooks the waterhole, so you can enjoy watching game pass by as you cool off.



LAKE KARIBA & MANA POOLS

Enormous Lake Kariba, in the north of Zimbabwe, is more akin to an inland sea than a lake. It was formed by the creation of the Kariba Dam and today boasts many game reserves along its banks, including Matusadona National Park. Much of the region's game gathers in this park on the lake's southern shore, and a series of

spectacular lodges and camps make this an excellent destination for a safari. The Mana Pools lie 100km beyond Lake Kariba and are a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The plains are host to an abundance of wildlife all year long, and the winding river courses and nodding palm trees make it feel like the Garden of Eden.



Bumi Hills Safari Lodge | The setting for Bumi Hills is sensational. Its ten premium suites extend out over the edge of a cliff, well-supported, to offer spectacular views over the southern shore of Lake Kariba and

straight down into the bush where a waterhole and tree-top hide are set on the red sandy lakeshore. The lodge features an infinity pool which seems to spill over into this vast inland sea, along with an extremely comfortable lounge, bar, games room, conference centre, chill pool, steam room, and even a spa.



Ruckomechi | Ruckomechi is an inviting camp in a large private concession in Mana Pools National Park. Its ten airy, en-suite tents are beautifully decorated and sit beneath the ana trees. These trees are

particularly popular with local elephants for their nutritious seeds. A firepit lies at the centre of the living space where guests can gather under star-studded night skies. The camp also features a pool overlooking a broad sweep of the Zambezi River. In fact, Ruckomechi as a whole enjoys sensational views over the river, the adjacent woodland and the stunning mountains of the Rift Valley escarpment.



SOUTHERN ZIMBABWE

Southern Zimbabwe's Matobo National Park enjoys the rare distinction of being home to both black and white rhino, along with an abundance of leopards and the highest concentration of black eagles anywhere in the world. Game viewing here is exceptional, with elephants, hippos and so many other animals to be found. Not all of Southern Zimbabwe's wonders are natural, though.

To the east of Matobo, you'll find the vast stone ruins of the 11th-century palace of Great Zimbabwe. This is the site from which the country itself took its name, and its importance in history is such that the Zimbabwean government has named the ruins a national monument. The buildings in the complex are the second oldest in southern Africa, and its massive "Great Enclosure" is the largest ancient structure south of the Sahara Desert.



Singita Pamushana | Elegant Singita Pamushana is Zimbabwe's only Relais & Château hotel. Featuring just six luxury suites, this intimate retreat is beautifully designed to incorporate the local environment and the

bright, cheerful colours and mosaics that reflect the positivity of the local people. It is nestled in 53,000 hectares of untamed land on Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve which hosts an astonishing variety of animals and boasts incredible landscapes. Singita Pamushana was established with the core purpose of generating income for the wonderful Malilangwe Trust, and all profits go to support the charity's extensive conservation and community work.



Camp Amalinda | In the heart of the Matobo Hills, this boutique lodge lies tucked away amongst huge boulders, granite domes and castle kopjes. The nine individual thatched rooms are all extremely comfortable,

stylishly decorated with historic artefacts. The camp boasts a library, cave wine cellar, swimming pool, spa, and a fantastic bar overlooking a nearby waterhole. This is the perfect base to head out for game viewing, to visit the tomb of Cecil John Rhodes or to hike to caves where you'll find more than 3,000 Khoisan rock art paintings.



MALAWI

Affectionately known as the “Warm Heart of Africa”, Malawi is slotted between Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. Although often overlooked by travellers, this diverse country has oodles to charm, captivate and enamour those who journey here in search of wildlife, superb safari experiences, and exhilarating outdoor pursuits.

One of Malawi's best safari destinations, Majete Wildlife Reserve, sits in the Lower Shire Valley, along Africa's Great Rift Valley. Covering 700km, the reserve boasts an inspiring history of recovery and restoration. After decades of poaching, African Parks began reintroducing species and have since successfully created an excellent Big Five safari destination. This natural haven offers a range of unique activities, from tracking black rhino on foot across the dry savannah to boat trips down the tranquil Shire River.

Malawi's landscapes are as stunning as they are geographically diverse. Savannah stretches across great nature reserves while Lake Malawi accounts for 20% of the country's surface area. An expanse of glittering fresh water,

Lake Malawi is an adventure playground perfect for kayaking, sailing and water skiing, complete with a fringe of golden sand beaches to relax on. Set against a dramatic mountain landscape, the deep clear waters brim with hundreds of vibrant fish species, making the lake a snorkeller's dream.

For stays in Malawi, Rainbow recommends intimate Pumulani, with its ten luxurious villas and stunning views of Lake Malawi; and welcoming Mkulumadzi in Majete Wildlife Reserve, whose eight chalets are tranquil and beautiful.

“*The dramatic peaks of Mount Mulanje and the mysterious Zomba Plateau make Malawi a hiker's dream and Lake Malawi provides ample opportunities to kayak, dive and snorkel.*”



A high-angle photograph of a person in a red kayak on the turquoise waters of Lake Malawi. The water is exceptionally clear, revealing a rocky and algae-covered lake bed. The kayaker is wearing a white life vest and is captured mid-stroke with their paddle. In the bottom left corner, some green foliage is visible, suggesting the photo was taken from a nearby shore.

Alternative Experiences

- Snorkel in vast Lake Malawi and keep an eye out for brightly-coloured fish like the big mouth hap and bumblebee
- Take an eco-friendly canoe ride out on to the lake and admire the spectacular scenery
- Visit a small fishing village and see the residents sorting their latest catch
- Head out on a game drive in Liwonde National Park to track leopards and hyenas
- Save time to soak in the sun on miles of golden, uncrowded beaches

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Malawi's rainy season falls between November and March, when the weather is hot and wet. From April to August the weather is dry and warm, while September to October is dry and hot.

GETTING THERE

The best way to get to Malawi is to fly from the UK via Nairobi, Addis Ababa or Johannesburg.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

British citizens do not require a visa to visit Malawi.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Malawi. Malawi is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.

For more information on Malawi, please visit our website www.rainbowtours.co.uk or ring our travel specialists on 020 7666 1250.

Lake Malawi



KENYA

In Swahili, "safari" means "journey". Here safari as we know it today began, and here it continues to flourish. Five coastal marine reserves and 48 national parks make Kenya a true paradise for those looking to get out into nature. The Masai Mara is Kenya's iconic game-viewing destination, but it's not all that's on offer.

The remote wildernesses of Laikipia and Meru, the dazzling birdlife of the Rift Valley lakes, the beauty of Amboseli, the stark splendour of Shaba and the grandeur of Mount Kenya are among Kenya's lesser-known gems but are all equally worth visiting. The vibrant cultures of the Maasai and Samburu people enrich the classic safari experience, and the breathtaking natural landscapes complete the picture.

Your options in Kenya are endless. You can visit famous reserves or stray off the beaten track and opt to stay "closer to nature" or to relax in the lap of luxury at a variety of camps and lodges. Best of all, you can enjoy spectacular game viewing in the birthplace of safari before

heading to the coast for a few days soaking in the sun on the beach.

Kenya's coast is fringed with wide, sandy beaches and coral reefs, and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean lap gently against the shore. This shoreline is stamped with the legacy of the Arab and Indian traders who, from the 9th century AD, were the external impetus for a vibrant Swahili culture which is still going strong today.

“
This remarkable country has some of the most dramatic game viewing in all of Africa. Most electrifying of all, of course, is the Great Migration, where a million wildebeest arrive into the Masai Mara.
”





The Great Migration

Alternative Experiences

- Avoid the crowds and find more activities outside the National Parks in private concessions
- Try “fly camping”, where you walk from one camp to another over two days, with a private camp stay in the middle
- Safari from the sky in a hot-air balloon
- Take advantage of the stupendous views of Mount Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park
- Don’t underestimate Kenya’s coastline, where you’ll find stunning beaches and excellent golfing

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

There is considerable regional variation in climate due to Kenya’s diverse geography. Generally, the best times to visit are between December and March and from June to October. The “long rains” occur in April and May and “short rains” in November.

GETTING THERE

Kenya Airways and BA operate daily services from London Heathrow to Nairobi. There are daily connecting flights from Nairobi to Mombasa, Malindi and Manda Island near Lamu. An efficient flight network connects all regions of Kenya from regional hubs.

GMT

+3 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Kenya. British citizens can purchase visas at point of entry. These cost from US\$50.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Kenya. Malaria is present across the country. A yellow fever certificate is advisable.



Lion pride, Masai Mara

MASAI MARA

The Masai Mara is one of Africa's most famous game-viewing areas, and one of Kenya's finest. A continuation of the Serengeti ecosystem, the Mara comprises 1,800km² of undulating savannah on the edge of the Rift Valley. It encompasses the national reserve and the adjacent game dispersal areas, where the game is equally abundant but the visitor numbers are much lower. The Masai Mara is often thought of as the archetypal safari destination, where you can find the Big Five along with a host of

other fascinating species, highly experienced rangers, and a large number of superb camps and lodges which offer all manner of bush activities, from game drives to visits to local Maasai villages. From June/July through to October, the Mara is the scene for the Great Migration, a true natural wonder. Millions of wildebeest and zebra brave the stalking predators and lurking crocodiles to cross the rivers from the Serengeti and reach the fresh, sweet grasses of the Mara plains.



Little Governors' Camp | Set by the Mara River in the Masai Mara itself, this unfenced camp is built around a waterhole which affords great birding and game viewing. There are 17 tents, all spacious and extremely comfortable,

spread apart for privacy among the trees. All have en-suite bathrooms and a private veranda to watch game in your own space. The main area includes an open-sided bar and dining tent and a curio shop. Two lovely touches are morning tea and coffee served in your tent with your wake-up call, and a professional beauty therapist available for in-room treatments.



Sanctuary Olonana | This small, boutique camp on the banks of the Mara River has 14 luxurious, spacious tents with 24-hour solar power. Each features an en-suite bathroom and private veranda overlooking the river where

you can relax and watch game. The main dining area also overlooks the river and is an exceptional spot in which to enjoy the evening meal or a relaxing drink after a busy day on safari. The food here is particularly good and incredibly fresh. Conservation and local involvement is taken very seriously, with ground-breaking projects such as the Wetlands Projects ongoing.



Kicheche Mara Camp | Designed along classic but luxurious lines, Kicheche Mara is tucked away in a grove of wild olive trees in the Mara North Conservancy. The eight canvas tents are expertly constructed to blend into the landscape with

en-suite bathrooms, private verandas, and hammocks slung among the trees. A comfortable camp lounge offers plenty of relaxation and recreation, and a communal eating area allows you to get to know the rest of the camp. You can of course eat privately if you prefer. The food is plentiful and delicious, with fresh produce flown in from Nairobi and fresh pastries baked each day.



Tipilikwani Mara Camp | Just outside the Masai Mara, with a private footbridge over the Talek River into the reserve itself, you'll find Tipilikwani. This rustic-style camp has 18 double and twin tents, all smart and comfortable, with

en-suite bathrooms and plenty of space. There are also two family tents available, with two full-size tents sharing a balcony. The main lounge and dining area is large with an open front, with plenty of comfortable places to sit, relax, and enjoy the views. Dinner is served here, but you can also eat privately on your veranda or under the stars if requested.



Elephants, Amboseli National Park

AMBOSELI & THE RIFT VALLEY

West of the Chyulu Hills and an hour's flight from Nairobi (or three hours by road), Amboseli National Park is the place to go in Kenya for elephants. Famed for its huge herds, Amboseli boasts quintessentially East African landscapes, with flat savannah grassland stretching as far as the eye can see. On clear days, the vista is dominated by Mount Kilimanjaro. Amboseli isn't only about its elephants, though. It is also rich in birdlife and game, with cheetahs, zebras, buffalo, eland and

giraffes all calling the park home. North west of Nairobi, the Rift Valley stretches 6,000km through the landscape. It passes through Kenya, where it runs from Lake Turkana through Lakes Baringo, Nakuru and Naivasha to Lake Natron on the Tanzanian border. Lake Naivasha is both a relaxing introduction to Africa and the perfect place to wind down after a safari.



Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge | Maasai-inspired in design and tucked away in an acacia grove by a gentle mountain spring, this is a wonderful African retreat. The lodge offers twin or double rooms, and also features a family

room and the Ol Donyo Oibor Suite. Rooms all come with en-suite bathrooms and private balconies. There is a main restaurant flanked by water gardens, with a spacious lounge and bar featuring a broad terrace for your evening cocktails. The camp can also organise delicious breakfasts or dinners out in the bush; a real gem of a safari experience.



Amboseli Porini Camp | This traditional, intimate safari camp is tucked away in an acacia grove in the private 6,000-hectare Selenkey Conservancy. To preserve the wilderness, there are no more than 12 guests permitted at any one time,

so this is the perfect place to escape the crowds. Nine spacious tents have both a single and double bed, with comfortable furnishings, solar-powered lighting and en-suite facilities. In the main camp area, you'll find comfortable dining and lounge tents, and a fireplace around which you can have a drink after dinner and watch the bright stars.



Loldia House | Shaded by old acacia and wild fig trees, Loldia House sits on the northern shore of Lake Naivasha and is the perfect place to ease into Africa and unwind after a long flight. The hospitality and the food—much of it fresh—

caught from the lake—never fails to delight. The seven rooms are spread between the house and Loldia Cottage, with an additional two-room third cottage. All have en-suite facilities. The comfortable lounge in the main house has a large fireplace and a deep, shady veranda where you can kick back and enjoy the views.



Olerai House | Olerai House has just five en-suite rooms, all furnished with flair and generously equipped. The quality of the hospitality and the wonderful meals reflect the Italian heritage of Oria, one half of the husband-and-wife

duo who originally opened up Olerai House. Oria and Iain Douglas-Hamilton wrote the ground-breaking book *Among the Elephant* here, and the guesthouse was opened up to fund their campaign to save the elephants. From Olerai it's easy to strike out for walks to the lake or into the hills, or to head out for some birding or perhaps a gondola trip.



LAIKIPIA

Second only to the Mara in terms of wildlife density, Laikipia is a privately-owned former ranch that is now a beautiful reserve. The focus here is on the activities you can undertake, from fishing to horse riding and from camel trekking to learning about the local culture and way of life from Maasai guides. Long walking safaris are led by expert Samburu or Laikipia Maasai guides and facilitated by a train of camels, loaded with everything

needed for the overnight base camp. They carry water, snacks, camera equipment—even you if your feet start to hurt! Look for zebra, oryx, giraffe and Grant's gazelle on the large plains as well as the rarer dikdik, generuk and lesser kudu in the mixed bush. Watch out too for wild dogs. Laikipia is home to about 10% of the endangered wild dog population in Africa, about 5,000 individuals in total.



 **Kicheche Laikipia Camp** | Intimate Kicheche Laikipia sits in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and is run by a highly experienced team who place focus on expansive hospitality. Luxury tents all have en-suite facilities

and a private veranda that overlooks the camp's waterhole. The spacious lounge and dining tent is the perfect place to relax, and the two stone fireplaces warm up the chilly high-altitude air in the evenings. The food is usually eaten under the open sky, and is utterly exceptional.



 **Oi Malo** | Family-owned and family-run, this delightful, effortlessly stylish lodge offers an intensely warm and welcoming stay with friendly, charming hosts. A perfect balance between home comfort and

professional luxury has been struck here. All rooms feature hot tubs, private verandas and en-suite bathrooms, with the additional option of spending a night in the leopard hide, tree house, or tented fly camp. Oi Malo Lodge has four boutique bedrooms for ultimate privacy, while Oi Malo House has six beautiful bedrooms and is ideal for a group or family.



SAMBURU & SHABA

Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba are wild and remote reserves protecting arid thornbush savannah, scrubland and scattered acacia. The rare wildlife adapted to this harsh environment includes reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, generuk, Somali ostrich and beisa oryx. Running through Samburu and bordered by a permanent ribbon of green, the Ewaso Nyiro River is the lifeblood of the ecosystem, drawing large herds of


elephants and prides of lions to its banks. Undertake walking safaris and game drives, take advantage of the excellent stargazing, and deepen your understanding of the region and its history by going on bush walks with a naturalist, listening to talks on Saburu traditions or visiting Samburu villages and meeting the locals.



 **Elephant Bedroom Camp** | This welcoming, well-run camp boasts a beautiful riverside setting in Samburu National Reserve. It has 12 spacious, comfortable tents, two of which have king-size beds and ten with twin

queen beds. All have en-suite bathrooms, enormous screen windows and private, shaded verandas for stunning views and the chance to watch wildlife coming to drink from the Ewaso Nyiro River. The tented lounge area is comfortable and relaxing, and the open-sided dining tent offers both great food and great views of the animals wandering through camp.



 **Saruni Samburu** | This luxury lodge features innovative, eco-chic architecture and stunning design. Its six villas are open and spacious, with spectacular views over Kenya's Northern Frontier District. Saruni

Samburu is rightly prized for its warm and welcoming hospitality, its Italian-style cuisine, and the quality of the guides—all Samburu warriors with real passion for their land and culture. The dining and lounge areas offer stunning panoramic views, and the infinity pools and spas are the perfect place to relax after long days on safari in Kalama Conservancy, to which Saruni Samburu has exclusive access.



LEWA WILDERNESS

Beyond the northern slopes of Mount Kenya, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has become a model for wildlife conservation on private land. Comprising open savannah, acacia forest, rocky gorges and ravines, mountain forest and swamplands, Lewa is home to a rich diversity of wildlife and more than 450 bird species. It is also one of the last remaining habitats of



Lewa Wilderness Trails | The nine stone-and-thatch cottages at Lewa Wilderness Trails are incredibly comfortable, and guests often comment that the hospitality here is so warm and outstanding

that staying is like receiving a personal invitation into the family home. There is a cosy sitting room where you can help yourself to a drink, along with an open-air dining room where you can gather around a long table to share meals. Facilities include a refreshing salt-water pool, table tennis, and a clay tennis court. The easy-going ambience and array of activities make this a great place for families.

the aquatic sitatunga, and home to a fifth of the remaining population of Grevy's zebra, along with increasing numbers of reticulated giraffe and white and black rhino.

Lewa offers a wealth of activities including game drives, night drives, guided bushwalks, visits to prehistoric sites, camel treks, treasure hunts for children, and so much more.



Sirikoi | The attention to detail and depth of knowledge at Sirikoi is superb, derived from owner and hosts Willie and Sue Roberts' lifetime of experience in safaris. The four luxurious tents sit on raised platforms

with private verandas offering views of the popular elephant waterhole, as well as fireplaces and en-suite bathrooms. The main area is set under a grove of acacias, with an elegant thatched dining area, open log fires and a large deck that overlooks the waterhole. There is also the gorgeous two-bedroom Sirikoi Cottage and stunning three-bedroom Sirikoi House for exclusive use.



MERU NATIONAL PARK

Meru National Park is untamed Africa at its most alluring. Beginning in the arid bush of eastern Kenya, Maru National Park is a 1,800km² unspoilt wilderness peppered with baobabs and doum palms. There are more than 400 bird species to spot, along with large herds of elephant, reticulated giraffes, buffalo, cheetahs, and generuks. Leopards lurk in the lava flows and the

park's 84km² rhino sanctuary offers the chance to see both white and black rhino.

Meru also has a longstanding association with lions. Aside from the prides you might see lolling in the shade, there was much work done here by Joy and George Adamson, who released the lioness Elsa—of Born Free fame—into the wild.



Elsa's Kopje | Named for the lioness of *Born Free* fame, Elsa's Kopje is close to the site where the Adamsons raised Elsa. Sitting on an enormous rocky outcrop that offers 360-degree views of the surrounding plains,

the nine spacious cottages incorporate the natural contours of the hillside. All have large bedrooms, sitting rooms, private verandas and roomy bathrooms. The open-air lounge has plenty of space to relax and drink in the vistas, and the stunning infinity pool offers both the chance to cool off and more exceptional views.



Offbeat Meru Camp | With just six tents and a prime location on a river in a private wilderness, Offbeat Meru is the ultimate in secluded getaways. The three double and three twin bed tents are spacious

and comfortable, with 24-hour solar lighting and wonderfully airy design. Each has an en-suite bathroom and shaded veranda with deckchairs to kick back and watch passing wildlife. The mess tent holds the bar and lounge area with plenty of places to get comfortable, and the small swimming pool overlooks the river. The food is very fresh and extremely high quality.



KENYA COAST

Diani Beach

Fringed by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, Kenya's 480km-long coastline is comprised almost entirely of idyllic sandy beaches. Recharge here after a safari or soak in some winter sun. There is plenty of space for you to escape the crowds, and families will find plenty to keep their younger members busy. Most of the Kenya coast is sheltered by coral reefs, which

provide excellent diving and natural protection for swimming and watersports. The beaches to the north and south of Mombasa extend for miles and are within easy reach of the Masai Mara. Diani Beach is livelier, but the beaches of Tiwi and Galu offer quiet getaways. If you'd like to pack in a final bit of wildlife-spotting, Watamu to the north adjoins a marine conservation park.



🏠 Hemingways Watamu |

Hemingways is an oasis of peace and calm set on one of the world's best beaches, two hours north of Mombasa. The 76 air-conditioned rooms all offer sea views and are just steps away from the 7km stretch of

pristine, sandy beach. The facilities are superb, with two swimming pools, a gym, beauty treatments and massages, snorkelling, scuba diving, big-game fishing, and so much more. Once a simple fishing lodge, Hemingways Watamu has evolved into one of the best hotels on the Kenyan Coast. As proof of this, a stunning 30% of guests are repeat visitors.



🏠 Turtle Bay Beach Club |

All-inclusive Turtle Bay stands in ten acres of tropical gardens on a 200m beach at the edge of Watamu Marine Park. It has a strong focus on the environment, with emphasis on working with the local community.

Turtle Bay currently holds a Bronze eco-rating from Ecotourism of Kenya. The 143 rooms are comfortable and spacious, all with en-suite bathrooms and with different levels depending on your needs. The four restaurants offer great food, there is lots to do, and the staff are incredibly warm and dedicated.



🏠 The Ocean Spa Lodge |

Priding itself on its "barefoot luxury" appeal, this prestigious and beautifully airy hotel boasts an exclusive beach front, a massive infinity pool and 14 beautiful thatched and air-conditioned suites

with stunning panoramic sea views. Most feature furniture hand-crafted by local artisans in the lodge's internal studio. A stunning spa, water sports centre and yoga and fitness studio are well worth making time for, and the à la carte restaurant is run by the Kenyan chef team who use locally sourced ingredients and ultra-fresh seafood. This is the perfect place to relax after a safari.



🏠 Waterlovers Beach Resort |

Waterlovers combines luxurious accommodation with an intimate, friendly charm and a core of eco-conscience. Its eight cottages and family villa are set on 25km of pristine Diana Beach on

Kenya's south coast. The rooms' design is a blend of Swahili, East African and Arabian influences, and each boasts a private veranda overlooking the beautiful beach. The restaurant offers superb Mediterranean cuisine made with African coast ingredients of incredible freshness and quality. The owners' focus on the environment is clear, from the solar-powered water heaters to their support of local projects and use of recycled materials in the décor.



Masai Mara

EXCLUSIVE KENYA SAFARI & BEACH HOLIDAY

Kenya is one of the iconic safari destinations, and this itinerary sees you visit its most famous wildlife reserve, the Masai Mara. Along with the Mara, spend three nights in magical Elsa's Kopje—a superb camp named for the lioness of *Born Free* fame—and other parks including Samburu National Reserve.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from London Heathrow to Nairobi.

Day 2 Nairobi | Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the House of Waine, where you will spend the night. After lunch at the hotel, there is the option to take a private guided tour of the Giraffe Centre and Karen Blixen Museum and Tea-Garden.

Day 3 Nairobi to Meru | You will be transferred to Wilson Airport for your scheduled Air Kenya flight to Meru airstrip, where you will be met and transferred to beautiful Elsa's Kopje for a three-night stay.

Days 4-5 Meru | Enjoy two wonderful days on safari with all meals and game drives included, along with bush breakfasts, bush sundowners, and more. Guided bush walks and night game drives are also available to book and are a fantastic way to see more of Meru's wildlife.

Day 6 Meru to Samburu National Reserve | Venture out on a morning game drive, then have breakfast and board your transfer back to the airstrip. Take the flight to Samburu National Reserve, where you will be met and driven to Saruni Samburu, offering superb game viewing along the way.

Days 7-8 Kalama Wildlife Conservancy | Sleep in your luxurious room at night, and during the day, venture out on game drives in Kalama Wildlife Conservancy, which borders Samburu, to try to catch sight of lions, zebra, and more.

Day 9 Samburu National Reserve to Masai Mara | After breakfast, transfer back to the airstrip for the morning flight to Mara North

airstrip in the Masai Mara. Here you will be met and transferred to Elephant Pepper Camp, again with excellent game viewing en route.

Days 10-11 Masai Mara | With your three nights in a luxury, East African-style tent, make the most of the amazing safari opportunities in the famous Masai Mara. Watch out for elephants, giraffes, and predators like wild dogs and hyenas. Relax in the evenings with sundowners as the day fades over the bush.

Day 12 Masai Mara to Kinondo Kwetu | Enjoy a full morning in the Masai Mara and then transfer after lunch to Ukunda airstrip for the flight to the coast. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to Kinondo Kwetu, where you will stay in the stunning Mama Taa Villa in a splendid suite.

Days 13-14 Kinondo Kwetu | Recuperate after your busy days on safari in the comfort of the hotel, with all meals, soft drinks, beers and wines included. Soak up the sun on the stunning beach and cool off in the ocean or the pool. If you'd like to find out about the activities available, please speak to a Rainbow specialist on 020 7666 1250.

Day 15 Fly to the UK | Transfer to the airstrip for your afternoon flight into Wilson Airport. From there, you will be met and transferred to Johannesburg international airport for your overnight flight back to London Heathrow.

Day 16 Arrive in the UK





TANZANIA

Africa's highest mountain, most famous national park and largest game reserve all lie within the borders of Tanzania. A quarter of its land is protected and it has largely resisted mass tourism. With around 20% of Africa's large mammals, more than 1,000 bird species, untouched wilderness areas and a coastline bordered by the crystal waters of the Indian Ocean, you will find the true romance of Africa in Tanzania. From the Serengeti to Mount Kilimanjaro, from Ngorongoro Crater to the island of Zanzibar, Tanzania is full of iconic sights and experiences.

The "northern circuit" encompasses the renowned Serengeti, the dramatic amphitheatre of Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara and Tarangire. It is justly famous for offering some of the finest wildlife viewing in Africa. Visitors travel by light aircraft between lodges, on a small group mobile camping trip or on a private safari.

Southern Tanzania is less travelled but well worth visiting, with wildlife more dispersed and fewer travellers. Spellbinding Selous Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park encourage you to focus on the wilderness and keep an eagle eye out for the Big Five as you

enjoy game drives, walks, or boat trips. Western Tanzania remains a hidden gem high on the bucket lists of true safari aficionados. Mahale is extraordinary—jungle-clad mountains inhabited by a wealth of primates. Lake Tanganyika boasts clear waters and sandy coves. In the dry season, the floodplains of Katavi support an immense concentration of game.

It's easy to catch an onward connection at the end of your holiday for a beach break on Zanzibar, Mafia Island, or even in northern Mozambique.

“*With huge swathes of protected land, high concentrations of big game and a range of camp and lodge options, Tanzania is an incredible safari destination that boasts the distinction of having both Africa's largest game reserve and its most famous national park—the Serengeti.*”





Alternative Experiences

- Take the classic hot-air balloon ride over the Serengeti and enjoy the unique view of the wildlife and landscape
- Settle down for an indulgent lunch banquet on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- Cycle through a local village
- Tackle the ascent of famous Mount Kilimanjaro
- Take a tour of a coffee plantation in Arusha

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Tanzania is a year-round destination. The long rains fall in April and May and the short rains in November.

GETTING THERE

BA, KLM and Kenya Airways operate daily flights to Nairobi, from where you can connect to Kilimanjaro. For southern Tanzania and Zanzibar, there are a number of options most days. Speak to a Rainbow specialist if you have any questions.

GMT

+3 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Tanzania and Zanzibar. British citizens can purchase visas at point of entry. These cost from US\$50.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for Tanzania. Malaria is present across the country. Passengers arriving from a yellow fever zone such as Kenya, Rwanda or Uganda require a vaccination certificate on entry.

Flamingos, Lake Manyara



SERENGETI

Lions sun themselves in the Serengeti

The Serengeti is perhaps the most iconic national park on the planet, and plays host to one of the planet's greatest natural phenomena: the Great Migration. Words alone cannot capture the vastness of this incredible park, with its abundance of wildlife and quintessentially African landscape of rolling grassy savannah and dense bush. On the plains you'll find plenty of big game, including elephants, giraffes and zebras. The big cats tend to frequent the

denser bush and acacia thickets of the central Serengeti. Here you'll find some of the best leopard sightings in Africa. There is a wide range of lodges and camps, from ultimate luxury to simple but comfortable, and many have impressive eco-credentials or dedicated programmes for families. If you want a classic African safari, you can't go wrong with the Serengeti.



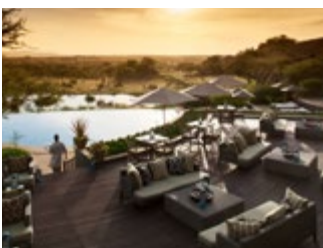
Chaka Camp | This authentic, tented camp moves with the seasons to follow the game, so from May to November it's in the Central Serengeti while from December to March it's in the Ndutu area south of the Serengeti. The

intimate camp has five double tents and three family tents, all with en-suite bathrooms, solar power, and private verandas where your morning tea and coffee is served. In the evenings, gather around the camp fire for a chat before dinner and stargazing. In Ndutu, you can head out directly from camp for guided bush walking.



Asanja Africa | Situated in the South Central Serengeti, Asanja Africa is a wonderful lodge full of care and attention to detail. The seven tents are large, with lovely furnishings, en-suite bathrooms and private verandas with views of the Serengeti

plains. Communal areas include a safari bar and lounge, a private gazebo for quiet relaxation, and the mess tent where excellent meals are served. The lodge often puts on cultural dance and music entertainment for guests. A lovely feature is that the lodge was designed around the environment, with no trees removed or permanent structures built during construction.



Sanctuary Kichakani Camp | Kichakani is a mobile, tented camp that can be found in three different locations depending on the time of year. From June to mid-July, it's in the Central Serengeti, while from late July to

November it's in the Northern Serengeti, and December to March sees it set down in the Southern Serengeti. The ten luxury tents are beautifully designed, with a chic spin on the classic African safari style. All have en-suite bathrooms with bucket showers and comfortable furniture. The main area features a lounge, dining area and bar, all intensely atmospheric and very relaxing.



Serengeti Serena Lodge | Perched on a hill with 360 degree views of the savannah, Serengeti Serena has 67 rooms and one suite in a series of thatched beehive-shaped rondavels, all built from local materials with three

rooms to a rondavel. Generous and tasty buffet-style meals are served in the dining room, which is charmingly decorated with local art and handicrafts. The horizon pool offers stunning views, and the communal areas provide welcome relaxation after your day on safari. In the evening, the lodge puts on traditional dance performance, and the resident naturalist gives fascinating talks.



Zebra grazing in Ngorongoro

NGORONGORO CRATER

The 16km-wide Ngorongoro Crater is the largest unflooded, intact volcanic crater in the world. A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, the crater boasts thickly forested walls that drop 600m from its rim into a spectacular natural arena that supports an enormous concentration of wildlife. You'll encounter teeming herds of zebra and wildebeest, as well as buffalo, baboons, eland, lions, hyenas and jackals. You'll even come across black rhinos, which are seldom found in Tanzania. Keen birders will have plenty to see, too: crowned cranes, Kori

bustards and secretary birds frequent the grasslands and many species of water bird dwell in the swamps. Entry permits are required for the crater and it can grow quite congested, so many people choose to spend just a few hours here before moving on. From the rim of the crater on clear days you can enjoy a spectacular view into the bowl below, and heading down the outer slopes you'll find coffee plantations, farmhouses, and picturesque villages.



&Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge | The Crater

Lodge has three camps, all perched on the south western rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. The 30 suites are lavishly decorated, with log fires, Persian artefacts, four-poster beds

and even a personal butler. Large windows provide sensational views over the crater. The service is impeccable and the food exceptional, and this combined with the innovative architecture, thoughtful design and the numerous adventures on offer make &Beyond truly special. Enjoy an evening relaxing in one of the outside areas with sundowners in hand, admiring the incredible vista laid out before you.



Plantation Lodge | The

23 rooms at Plantation Lodge are all individually decorated with en-suite bathrooms, spaced out in the attractive gardens. Five spacious, stylish suites and the four-bedroom, two-story Garden House for families

round off the accommodation, all spacious and comfortable. The gardens are a real star feature here, with rolling lawns, flowerbeds bursting with colour and scent, and a lovely pool. You can enjoy a massage, benefit from the attentive and discreet service, and take advantage of the excellent food. The meals are varied and very fresh, with some produce coming from the lodge's gardens themselves.



Gibbs Farm | This former

coffee plantation sits between Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater and offers a comfortable, luxurious retreat that offers a nice contrast to the wilderness parts of a safari. Surrounded by lush gardens and

forest with beautiful views, the cottages and main building are all warmly decorated in a colonial style. Rooms have huge beds and en-suite bathrooms, and the cottages even offer outdoor showers. The food here is particularly good, much of it organic and grown in the hotel's own gardens. Make sure to try the hotel's own coffee, too—it's the perfect start to a morning safari.



Tloma Lodge | Situated

on the eastern outer wall of Ngorongoro Crater, Tloma Lodge is set in beautiful manicured and verdant gardens with views over the nearby coffee plantation and Ngorongoro Highlands. Its 36

cottages are dotted around the property, all connected by walkways, with private verandas and en-suite bathrooms. The rooms are spacious with wonderfully roomy beds. The main area is in a colonial-style farm house, with both indoor and outdoor dining and a lounge area. The pool is the perfect spot to cool off, with lovely views down the valley.




LAKE MANYARA

In a lovely contrast with other parks in Tanzania, which tend towards the monumental and dramatic, Lake Manyara is a picturesque escape. Between the soda lake and the steep western wall of the Rift Valley, Lake Manyara National Park protects a narrow 330km² tract of land. Its lush groundwater forests, woodlands, open plains and sulphur-rich hot springs are home to nearly 400 bird species, including bee-eaters,

kingfishers, pelicans and flamingos. Large mammals found here include giraffes, leopards, buffalo, olive baboons, hippos, elephants, and the famous tree-climbing lions. Because the main gate lies at the north of the park, the northern sector does tend to get busier, especially in the afternoons. Avoid the crowds by delving deeper south with a private guide.



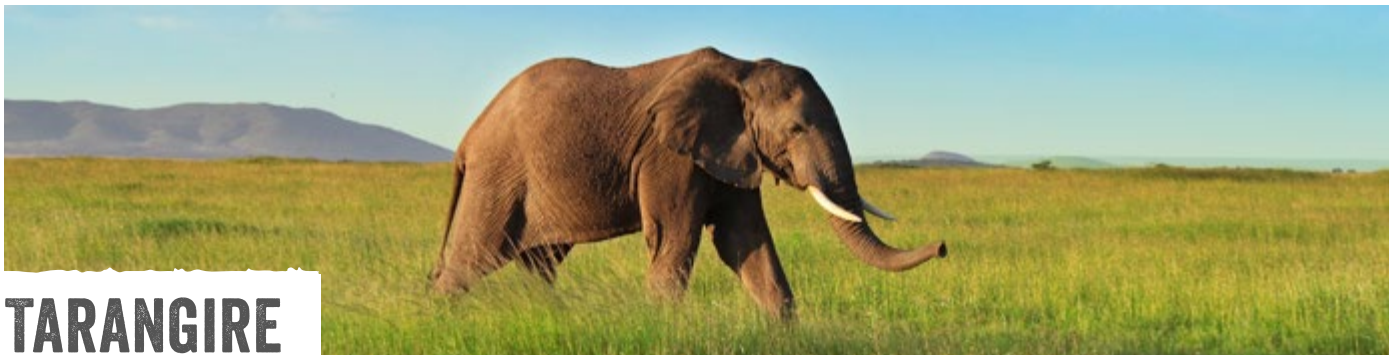
 **Kirurumu Manyara Lodge** | Set high on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, Kirurumu offers sensational views over Lake Manyara, the Rift Valley floor and Mount Losimingori. The 27 tented rooms are all

en-suite and very comfortable, and there are also two honeymoon suites and two family cottages on offer. The bar is a particularly lovely spot, with a sun deck and panoramic views of the Rift Valley so you can drink in the vista with a sundowner in hand. The dining room has great food and an attentive, friendly waiter service.



 **Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge** | From the lodge's elevated position on an escarpment, it's just a 30-minute drive to the Lake Manyara park entrance. Its 67 rooms are set in thatched, circular buildings

based on traditional local architecture. All are spacious and smart, set in lovely gardens and boasting full-length windows with uninterrupted views. The bar and infinity pool both offer wonderful views, and meals are good. Alongside the activities the lodge offers, you can also enjoy traditional dance performances in the evenings.




TARANGIRE

Most famous for its massive herds of elephant, Tarangire is best in the dry season, July–November, when migratory game is concentrated around the permanent waters of the Tarangire River. You may spot eland, hartebeest, wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, and elephant. With the grazers come the predators, of course, and lions, jackals and various types of raptors abound.

The park encompasses areas of acacia woodland, floodplains and grassland. Its rolling landscape is dotted with towering termite mounds, giant baobab trees and thick bush. January–March is the calving season, when the grass is fresh and succulent, and you may see animals with young in tow.



 **Maramboi Tented Camp** | Maramboi's 38 tents—including two family rooms—are built under makuti roofs, all raised up on wooden platforms to overlook the golden grasslands all around. They boast

en-suite showers, and some are connected to each other and the main area by wooden walkways, making them ideal for those who are less mobile and may struggle on rough ground. Meals are served in the central dining area, and here you'll also find a comfortable lounge with a small library. Close by is the camp's swimming pool; the perfect spot to cool off and kick back.



 **Chem Chem Safari Lodge** | Situated in 4,000 hectares of privately-managed wildlife wilderness, Chem Chem provides an exceptionally high-quality experience combined with great game viewing thanks to

the active camp waterhole. The eight villa-style tents are luxurious and stylish, with a bedroom, reading room, bathroom, outdoor shower and wooden deck, all beautifully decorated in a rich variety of natural woods. Facilities include a swimming pool and the Amani Spa, which offers wonderful treatments. Chem Chem's focus is slowing down the pace to allow guests to really sink into the safari experience and enjoy it to its fullest potential.



SOUTHERN TANZANIA

Hippo, Great Ruaha River

In the south of Tanzania lie Selous Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park. These captivating wildernesses are less busy than the northern reserves, though their remote landscapes and abundant wildlife are becoming increasingly acknowledged. Served by a handful of camps and reached either by light aircraft from Dar es Salaam or, if you have the time, by road, Tanzania's southern parks are well worth the trip.

The Selous covers about 50,000km², making it four times the size of the Serengeti. It contains diverse habitats including lakes, acacia woodlands, gorges, riverine forest and open grassland. Ruaha lies to the west in the transition zone where the species of southern and eastern Africa overlap. Between them, the Selous and Ruaha shelter the continent's largest populations of buffalo, elephant, hippo, crocodile, and the endangered African wild dog.



△ Serena Mivomo River Lodge | This luxury lodge benefits from a spectacular location high above the banks of the Rufiji River, close to the impressive Steigler's Gorge. It has 12 thatch-and-wood rooms, all stylishly

designed and air-conditioned with a private deck, plunge pool, and a fresco shower. The food is delicious and plentiful, with three-course dinners every evening in the main dining area. The hotel also has a lounge, library and bar; all perfect for relaxation. The infinity pool sits just below the lounge and bar and offers great views of the river where game often passes.



△ Lake Manze Camp | Inside the vast Selous Game Reserve sits wonderful Lake Manze Camp. Overlooking a plain filled with birds and wildlife, this is an unfenced, low-impact camp with a classic, simple ethos and determination to

fulfil their eco-friendly goals. The 12 East Africa-style tents are very comfortable and well-spaced for privacy, with en-suite bathrooms, private verandas and beautiful views. Various sitting areas and the thatched dining area overlook the lake, and as much fresh produce as possible is sourced locally from farmers on the border of the reserve.



△ Ikuka Safari Camp | Comprised of just six stunningly-appointed rooms, Ikuka is an exclusive safari experience. The rooms have been carefully designed to fit in on the Ikuka escarpment, and all boast a panoramic view of

the Ruaha wilderness. With en-suite bathrooms, super-king-size beds, spacious lounge areas and large private balconies, they are the last word in luxury. Overlooking the Mwagusi River, the central communal area features a well-stocked bar, lounge, airy dining space, a swimming pool with a lounging deck and a relaxing library area. All benefit from the same light and spacious design as the rooms.



△ Mdonjo Old River Camp | Sister-camp to Lake Manze, this eco-friendly camp was originally set up by a couple of lion researchers and now offers wonderful stays in central Ruaha. The 12 guest tents are constructed

in the Meru style, offering a shady veranda to relax on and watch for big game. All tents have en-suite bathrooms and either double or twin beds. The focus is on the classic, simple safari, without skimping on comfort. The lounge tent and dining area are open-sided tents, with hearty food and a lovely friendly atmosphere throughout.



Chimpanzee

WESTERN TANZANIA

Draped in lush emerald vegetation, the remote Mahale Mountain chain rises behind the sandy beaches of Lake Tanganyika. Here roam the denizens made famous by Jane Goodall in the 1960s: wild chimpanzees. Mahale is one of the most beautiful places in Africa, with the crystal-clear waters of the lake sparkling in the sun. It is also one of the most expensive places to reach!



△ Chada Katavi | Situated on the edge of the vast Chada floodplain, this remote camp offers some of the most rewarding game viewing on the continent. Chada Katavi is seasonal and has no permanent structures, but that

doesn't make it any less comfortable. The six tents are private and spacious, designed with plenty of character and charm. You can dine with other guests in the mess tent or eat out under the incredible stars. As one of the most remote luxury camps anywhere on the continent, this is the ultimate secluded getaway.



△ Greystoke Mahale Camp | Settings don't get much better than Greystoke Mahale, tucked away on a crescent beach at the foot of spectacular, forest-clad mountains. It has just six wooden bandas, all with en-suite bathrooms

and upstairs relaxation decks offering uninterrupted lake views. There is a sumptuous dining and bar area, four observation decks, and a specialist primate library. You can take dinner on a lamplit dhow, and don't miss the chance to try the incredibly fresh lake sashimi. The embodiment of "style with soul", Greystoke Mahale is quite simply stunning.

In the vast wilderness of remote Katavi National Park, to the south of the Mahale Mountains, herds of Cape buffalo a thousand strong roam the floodplains, hippos crowd the rivers in their hundreds, and lions and leopards prowl amongst the herbivores looking for their next meal. Katavi may be the only place left in the world where lions still outnumber people, so go now before this is no longer true.



△ Katavi Wildlife Camp |

Nestled in the fringe of woodland that lines the seasonal lake on the edge of the Katisunga plain, Katavi Wildlife offers some of the best views in the park. Carefully designed to blend seamlessly into its environ-

ment, this lodge features six large Meru-style tents with en-suite bathrooms and private verandas and chairs. The two-storey main building has a cosy bar and airy dining room downstairs, and upstairs you'll find a wonderful viewing lounge where you can sit and watch the animals pass by. The staff are friendly and always eager to help.



△ Mbali Mbali Mahale |

Mbali Mbali is a group of five lodges across Tanzania, whose name means "far far away" in Swahili. This perfectly encapsulates their unique, off-the-beaten-track ethos. Mbali Mbali Mahale is no different, set on a

stretch of secluded golden beach and designed with the perfect blend of comfort, luxury and romance. The nine beach tents are delightful, and the chance to eat dinner on the beach under the stars cannot be passed up. The surrounding environment is pristine and well worth exploring during an amble through the trees.



Serengeti National Park

AUTHENTIC NORTHERN TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR

Combine searching for the Big Five in Tanzania's northern national parks with time relaxing on the white-sand beaches of the exotic Indian Ocean Island of Zanzibar on this popular Africa holiday. While on safari you will be in the professional hands of a private guide with your own vehicle, providing you with the luxury of travelling at your own pace. Witness spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, marvel at abundant bird life, explore the endless plains of the Serengeti and visit the world's largest inactive and intact volcanic caldera.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Kilimanjaro | Take an overnight flight to Kilimanjaro.

Day 2 Arusha | Arrive in Kilimanjaro where you will be met and transferred to Arumeru Lodge, just a 35-minute drive from the airport. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Take time to explore the fragrant tropical gardens where dikdiks, the smallest antelopes in Africa, roam and watch the colours change on Mount Kilimanjaro as the sun sets.

Day 3 Lake Manyara | In the morning, meet your private safari guide for a full safari briefing. Jump in a 4x4 and embark on a safari in the Lake Manyara National Park, which is made up of forest, arid land and a soda lake that attracts more than 400 species of bird—it is not unusual to spot 100 different species in one day. The park is also home to tree-climbing lions, leopards, giraffe, elephant as well as plains game and hippo so keep your eyes peeled as you explore the park. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park and, in the evening, reach Migunga Tented Camp for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 4 Ngorongoro Crater | In the morning, leave Lake Manyara and head for Ngorongoro Crater—a World Heritage Site and the world's largest inactive, intact volcanic caldera. This natural amphitheatre is rich with vegetation and is a draw to more than 22,000 large animals including black rhino, hippopotamus, cheetah and African wild dog. Spend the remainder of the day exploring the crater at leisure, before checking in to Tloma Lodge for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 5 Serengeti National Park | After an early breakfast, your safari will continue towards the endless plains of the Serengeti National Park. This park is famous for its annual migration of zebra and wildebeest, which takes place in July, August and November. The day will be spent game viewing and searching for Africa's Big Five—lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant as well as many other species of animal. In the evening, settle down at Chaka Camp where you will stay for two nights.

Day 6 Serengeti National Park | After breakfast, embark on a full-day game drive of the vast Serengeti National Park, enjoying game sightings at your leisure. Alternatively, you may elect to do only a morning or afternoon drive and enjoy some time in the camp during the day.

Days 7-11 Zanzibar | Enjoy breakfast before transferring to Arusha airstrip for your light aircraft flight to Zanzibar. The Zanzibar archipelago consists of more than 50 islands, ranging from tiny outcrops to the larger more populated islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. On arrival, you will be met and transferred by road to the authentic Matemwe Beach Village guesthouse, located on the north east coast of Zanzibar. Matemwe is a small fishing town and has so far avoided being taken over by the large resorts and hotel developments. It is also renowned for its long stretches of white sandy beaches. Spend five days relaxing and reflecting on your Tanzania safari. You will have plenty of opportunities to

explore Zanzibar and take optional excursions including visits to Stone Town, spice farms, Prison Island to see giant tortoises and Jozani Forest to see the red colobus Monkeys.

Day 12 Fly to the UK | Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.





Tree-climbing lions

SELOUS, RUAHA & SWAHILI COAST IN STYLE

Venture off the beaten track in southern Tanzania on this 12-day itinerary that takes you to the prime game reserves of the Selous and Ruaha, where you can explore the bush on game drives, guided safari walks and on seasonal safari boat trips. Complete your trip with time on the beach at an idyllic stretch of the Tanzania coast where you can snorkel, kayak and explore the coastal nature reserve just behind the lodge.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Dar es Salaam | Take an overnight flight to Dar es Salaam via Nairobi.

Day 2 Selous Game Reserve | Arrive in Dar es Salaam and transfer by light aircraft to the Selous Game Reserve where you will stay for three nights at the Siwandu Camp. Siwandu Camp is a luxurious tented camp set on an ox-bow lake in a beautiful spot in the north of Southern Tanzania's vast, unspoiled Selous Game Reserve. The camp is divided into two discrete camps, North and South. Each has its own facilities, so you can relish your seclusion in this remote wilderness area and benefit from personal service and attention. South Camp has seven tents and the North has six. The tents are spacious, private and attractive, with soft furnishings of natural colours. The tents stand on raised platforms under a thatched roof and each has a good view of the river — and a sofa on your private veranda from which to enjoy it.

Days 3-4 Selous Game Reserve | Spend the next two days game viewing in specially adapted, open 4x4 vehicles cruising the rivers watching animals come down to the water's edge from sturdy metal boats and a covered canopy for your comfort, all with expert, well-trained guides. An early morning guided walk is highly recommended, getting close to nature and giving a fascinating look into the smaller things on the ground. For the more adventurous there is the possibility of an optional one- or two-night overnight fly camping experience. Talk to a Travel specialist for more information.

Day 5 Ruaha National Park | After breakfast, take a light aircraft flight to Ruaha National Park. Check in to Jongomero Tented Camp for a three-night stay. Set on the banks of the seasonal Jongomero River, in the remote south west corner of the Ruaha, elegant Jongomero Camp is the only camp in this pristine area. Ruaha's most luxurious camp, Jongomero has just eight extravagantly spacious safari tents on raised platforms, with large private decks offering unimpeded views of the river and surrounding wilderness. The main lodge is shaded by an ancient African ebony tree. Meals include safari picnics, campfire cooking and al fresco dinners under the stars. Game drives are in open Land Rovers and can include a full-day safari; and, after a bush walk, the pool is a welcome place to relax and cool off.

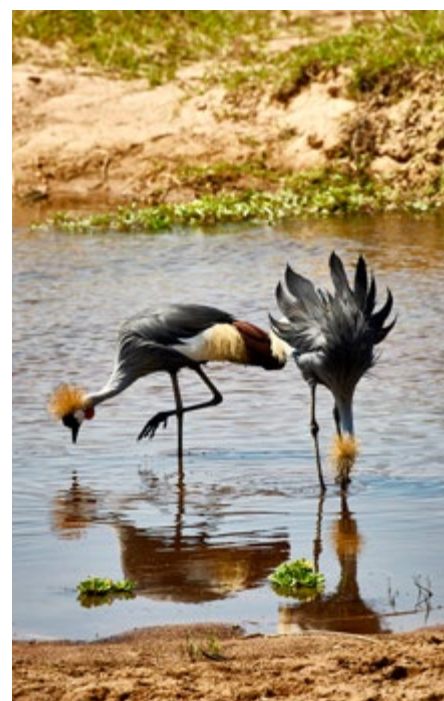
Days 6-7 Ruaha National Park | Spend the next two days embarking on game drives in open 4x4 vehicles. An early morning guided walk is must here and we recommend an optional night fly camping.

Day 8 Swahili Coast | Today, take a light aircraft flight back to Dar es Salaam. On arrival, transfer by road to Ras Kutani and check in to a cottage for a four-night stay. Situated only 35 miles south of Dar es Salaam, this luxury beach lodge is easily accessible, yet remains an unspoilt hideaway. The nine charming cottages are decorated with simple stylishness.

Days 9-11 Swahili Coast | After a heavy safari schedule, some quiet time on the Tanzania coast

is a perfect way to unwind. However, for those not happy whiling away the day with a swim, good book or long walks on deserted beaches, there is much to do. Activities include nearby snorkelling with equipment provided, exploring the fresh water lagoon by kayak and boogie boarding in the surf. The coastal forest behind the lodge is home to 132 different species of trees and four species of monkey and visits to the local village give an insight into Swahili life today.

Day 12 Fly to the UK | Transfer to the airport for the flight back to the UK via Nairobi.





Chimpanzee

WESTERN TANZANIA SAFARI & CHIMP TREKKING

This wildlife safari explores the vast wilderness of Katavi National Park – where lions outnumber people – and the remote Mahale Mountains, home to wild chimpanzees. Rest your head in style at some of the best camps in Tanzania and embark on guided treks with experienced guides to get you face to face with chimpanzees in the Mahale National park.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Kilimanjaro | Take an overnight flight to Kilimanjaro via Nairobi.

Day 2 Arusha | On arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to Arusha Coffee Lodge, which boasts beautiful views of Mount Meru, where you will stay for one night. The Arusha Coffee Lodge is set just outside the town of Arusha in one of Tanzania's largest coffee plantations. The lodge has 18 standard rooms and 12 suites which are all situated in and around the coffee plantation. From the lodge you can enjoy a coffee walking tour, have a safari taster and visit Arusha National Park for a canoe safari or a game drive to see the acrobatic colobus monkeys.

Day 3 Katavi National Park | After an early breakfast, take a light aircraft flight to Tanzania's south-western Katavi National Park for a four-night stay in one of only six classic safari tents at Chada Katavi Camp, perfectly positioned for panoramic views over the Chada plain. The camp is seasonal, with no permanent structures and just six tents. It is one of the best safari camps in Tanzania and one of the continent's most rewarding game-viewing areas.

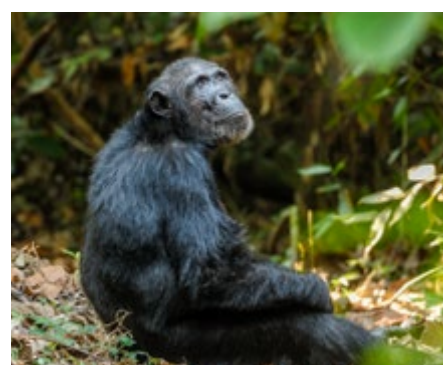
Days 4-6 Katavi National Park | Spend the next three days on safari in the remote wilderness of Katavi National Park where hippos pack the rivers, huge herds of Cape buffalo and elephant graze the floodplains and predators—lions, leopards and hyena—stalk their prey.

Day 7 Mahale National Park | Take a short morning flight to Mahale, set on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. From here, continue your journey by dhow boat to Greystoke Mahale Lodge. As you sail along the calm clear waters

of the lake the coastline and villages slip by, becoming increasingly more remote until you see the verdant Mahale Mountains in the distance, towering above the lodge—a truly breathtaking sight! Greystoke Mahale Camp is set on a crescent beach at the foot of spectacular, forested mountains. Stay in one of six open-front, two-storey bandas that have upstairs viewing decks on which to relax and appreciate the incredible surroundings. Enjoy a sumptuous dining and bar area, four observation decks, a specialist primate library, lamplit dinners on a dhow, and fresh lake sashimi.

Days 8-9 Mahale National Park | Mahale is jaw-droppingly beautiful. The montane rainforest contains one of Africa's last populations of wild chimpanzees, a variety of other primates and myriad forest birds. A total of 70 chimps live in the mountains close to camp and have become habituated to human presence over two decades of contact. The guides have developed intimate knowledge of individual animals and their life stories. There may also be opportunities to observe leopard, bushbuck, bushpig, and a multitude of birds and butterflies. Days at Greystoke Mahale are spent tracking chimps in the forest, swimming and snorkelling in Lake Tanganyika—home to more than 250 species of tropical fish—or sailing in the 40ft dhow.

Day 10 Fly to the UK | After breakfast, take a boat transfer to Mahale airstrip for a light aircraft flight to Kilimanjaro. Catch an onward flight back to the UK via Nairobi.





ZANZIBAR

The Zanzibar archipelago consists of two main islands, Unguja (popularly known as Zanzibar) and Pemba, and around 50 much smaller isles. Thanks to its position on the main route of the monsoon winds, Zanzibar rose to prominence as an important trading centre between China, India and Africa. The island's own plantations have supplied the world with aromatic spices such as cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon ever since they were discovered by Arab traders in the 8th century.

Ruled by the Sultanate of Oman since the 17th century and a British protectorate from 1890, Zanzibar has had its fair share of outside influences. After gaining independence in 1963, a year of bloody revolution was followed by a merging with the neighbouring country, Tanganyika, to form the new nation of Tanzania in 1964.

Since the 1980s, Zanzibar has opened itself up to tourism, and tourism is now second only to clove production in its contribution to the GDP. With its lively bazaars, Muslim architecture, lush green plantations

and of course its paradisiacal white-sand beaches, Zanzibar is a true idyll and always popular with tourists.

The verdant island of Pemba to the north remains largely undeveloped and lacks the crowds of its southerly neighbour. Best of all, it boasts miles and miles of glorious, deserted beaches.

If you're looking for a few nights R&R after a tiring safari in the east of Africa, Zanzibar is the ultimate destination.

“
The name Zanzibar evokes white-sand beaches and glorious sunsets; a mysterious and exotic land where relaxation is the top order of the day. These tiny islands have captivated the world's imagination and don't fail to impress with their vibrant culture and stunning coastlines.
 ”





Alternative Experiences

- Take a custom walking tour of Stone Town and learn about its fascinating history, distinctive architecture and everyday life
- Have lunch at Anjam's home, where you can meet his family, eat, chat, and learn some Zanzibari cooking secrets
- Head to the east coast of Zanzibar for the best beaches, where you'll find turquoise water and soft white sand

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Temperatures in Zanzibar remain pleasant year-round. The long rains fall in April and May, and most beach lodges close for these months. The short rains fall in November and sometimes December, but these tend to pass quickly.

GETTING THERE

Many airlines including BA, Kenya Airlines, Qatar Airways and Emirates operate flights to Nairobi or Dar es Salaam, where you can connect with a shorter flight to Zanzibar. From there it is a 20-minute flight to Pemba.

GMT

+3 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Zanzibar. British citizens can purchase visas at point of entry. These cost from US\$50.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required if you have visited Kenya or certain other countries. Zanzibar is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.

Dhows



Pamunda Island, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR BEACHES

Zanzibar's white beaches, lapped by the warm turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, provide the perfect place to relax and unwind following a safari in Tanzania or elsewhere. Spend your days snorkelling and diving among coral reefs, sailing on a traditional dhow and absorbing Swahili culture. The beaches are a paradise, interspersed with picturesque fishing villages, where the people live a simple way of life that has changed little over the years.

The beaches of the east coast stretch from Nungwi, at the northern tip of the island, to Chwaka, and boast white and powder-fine sand. On the west coast you will find Mangapwani Beach where you can visit the Coral Cave, a deep natural cavern in the coralline rock with a narrow entrance and a pool of fresh water at its lowest point, along with the Mangapwani Slave Chamber.

“
When you think of a paradise beach, with white sand and turquoise waters, the beaches of Zanzibar may just be what you're picturing.
”



Baraza | Set on a beach of the softest white sand beside a sparkling turquoise lagoon this is a truly lovely resort. The 30 villas are lavishly equipped, tucked away in private gardens with design and décor inspired by Zanzibar's Swahili

culture. The villas all have huge beds, en-suite bathrooms, dressing rooms, living rooms, and a large terrace with sun loungers and a plunge pool. There is a main pool with plenty of loungers, a water sports centre, tennis court, and gym. The Frangipani Spa is sensational, as is both the bar and the food.



Zuri | The 55 stunning bungalows, suites and villas that make up Zuri's accommodation are absolutely stunning. The majority have incredible views over the azure waters of the Indian Ocean, while others are tucked away in the

tranquil tropical gardens. Designed to be eco-friendly without skimping on luxury, the accommodation is stylish and immensely comfortable. Zuri describe their focus as "being", not "doing", and everything here promotes a sense of tranquillity and living in the moment, whether you are lounging on the beach or sampling the excellent food; all international dishes with African and Indian Ocean twists.



STONE TOWN

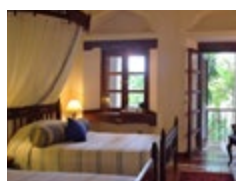
UNESCO-listed Stone Town is the old quarter of Zanzibar Town, the island's capital. The bazaars, mosques, palaces, forts, fruit markets, and winding streets make this the historic heart of Zanzibar. The traditional Swahili atmosphere is almost tangible, and the unique mixture of cultures offers the chance to experience living history. Most of its grand old mansions, with their elaborately carved doors, date from the 18th century.



Zanzibar Palace | This sumptuous boutique hotel is situated in a renovated Zanzibari palace in the heart of Stone Town. The seafront is just a short walk away, making this the perfect base from which to explore

Stone Town. The nine rooms are set over three floors and comprise two luxury rooms, five suites and two huge palace suites on the top floor; one of which has a rooftop bathroom. The restaurant serves French cuisine and the lounge bar has strong and delightful Arabic influences. The service above all is impeccable, with the owners acting as exemplary hosts.

Wander the labyrinthine streets and alleys crammed with tiny shops and workshops. There are lots of places to eat, ranging from tourist restaurants in hotels to simple restaurants aimed at the local market. Don't miss the House of Wonders, a splendid white-balconied building situated on the seafront. It was the former Sultan's palace, and was restored and reopened in 2002 as a museum.



Zanzibar Serena Hotel | This five-star hotel occupies two historic buildings on the seafront. The swimming pool they flank provides the perfect place to relax after exploring Stone Town and its wonderful

bazaars. The 52 rooms feature private balconies overlooking the Indian Ocean, with the best views found in the prime rooms. From the hotel you can take a complimentary transfer to the private beach club, and then return to eat either in the main restaurant or the intimate à la carte rooftop restaurant that seats just eight people.



OTHER ISLANDS

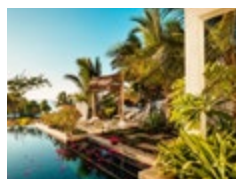
The second largest island in the archipelago, Pemba, lies about 80km north east of Unguja (Zanzibar). Around 67km long and 22km wide, Pemba is less visited and less developed, and more verdant, fertile and hilly than Zanzibar itself. The island's healthy virgin coral reefs, untouched beaches and tranquil pace make it a perfect relaxation destination. Access is by a short 20-minute flight from Zanzibar.



Fundu Lagoon | Sandy paths and wooden walkways connect remote Fundu's 18 thatched, tented rooms and suites, tucked away among the foliage at the edge of a lovely stretch of soft white sand on Pemba Island.

The accommodation is light and airy, with lots of space and comfortable furniture. Meals here are a real treat, served in a variety of locations from the jetty to the beach or Mesali island. Inspired by fresh local produce, the food is exceptional and the servings very generous. Special meals include the weekly Swahili night and the beach barbecue with fresh, locally-caught seafood.

Tiny pristine Chumbe Island is a protected marine reserve that lies just off the main Zanzibar coast and is reached by boat. Former fishermen now work as rangers and take guests on snorkelling trips to the reefs. Last but by no means least, the luxurious Robinson Crusoe-style Mnemba Island Lodge is barefoot luxury at its very best, offering prime snorkelling reached straight from the beach.



Constance Aiyana | Tucked away on the beautiful, white-sand coastline of Pemba Island, this stunning hotel offers a treat for every sense. Its 30 villas are all airy and stylish, with gorgeous views over the Indian

Ocean and chic, minimalist décor enhanced with a touch of Zanzibari vibrancy. The lovely restaurant serves both international and Zanzibari cuisine, with lots of fresh fish and seafood to enjoy. The bar is the perfect place to unwind with a cocktail and enjoy the magnificent sunsets after browsing the two boutiques or indulging in the spa.



UGANDA

Slightly smaller than the UK, Uganda is a land of astonishing diversity. It is one of the last refuges of the critically endangered mountain gorilla, and can claim both the highest number of primate species and some of the richest birding in Africa. Neither will you be denied a glimpse of the Big Five. Uganda has all the plains game more commonly associated with its neighbours Kenya and Tanzania, and lacks the crowds who tend to head to more renowned destinations for their game viewing.

More than 20 national parks and reserves safeguard Uganda's incredible natural heritage, and thanks to its status during the 1960s as Africa's foremost safari destination there is a good road system and a scheduled flight network that opens up the more remote corners of the country to visitors. A range of lodges and camps are on offer, so it's easy to tailor a trip to your precise needs.

No matter what you're after from an African holiday, Uganda can supply it. Short gorilla trips are popular, but

longer holidays are just as rewarding. Whether you want to set out for some world-class birding, concentrate on Uganda's primates, "tick off" species endemic to the Albertine Rift, head out on a classic safari experience or get to know Uganda's vibrant people, you won't be disappointed. Just remember you will need a permit to track the gorillas. In Uganda, they cost US\$600, while across the border in Rwanda they're a heftier US\$1,500.

“*Even a short trip to Uganda will show you why it is known as “The Pearl of Africa”. Troupes of chimpanzees, mountain gorilla families and Big Five viewings are the crowning glory, along with more than 1,000 bird species, the majestic Victoria Nile and of course massive Lake Victoria.*”





Alternative Experiences

- Visit the resettled Batwa community on the Batwa Settlement Walk
- Drink in stunning views at the top of the Rushura Hill Trail
- Tackle a day or half-day hike in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains
- Take a boat trip to see rare shoebills in Semliki Wildlife Reserve
- See a performance by the multi-award-winning authentic Ugandan Ndere Troupe

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Uganda is a year-round destination although the rains in April and November can make travel difficult in certain areas.

GETTING THERE

There are no direct flights to Uganda from the UK. Options for flights include Emirates via Dubai, Ethiopian Airlines via Addis Ababa, and Kenya Airways via Nairobi.

GMT

+3 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Uganda. EU, US and Canadian citizens can purchase visas at point of entry. These cost from US\$50.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required upon entry. Uganda is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.


Gorilla, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest



MURCHISON FALLS


At Murchison Falls, the Nile River contracts to a mere six metres wide after cutting across the National Park. The result is waterfalls of astonishing power—and one of Uganda’s most spectacular sights. A boat trip up the Nile to the base of the falls is a wonderful way of seeing the innumerable hippos and some of the largest Nile crocodiles in Africa. With luck, you might also spot leopards, elephants or the much sought-after shoebill.



 **Bakers Lodge** | Bakers Lodge is tucked away on the south bank of the Nile River, shaded by large trees and close to wetland which offers excellent birdlife for visitors to enjoy. The eight en-suite safari

suites are individual cottages on raised decks along the river, all offering fantastic views of the water and the elephants and hippos that sometimes pass by. The main building is tastefully decorated, with a thatched open-air lounge, a dining room and a bar. The sparkling swimming pool is ideal for cooling off in the heat.



 **Murchison River Lodge** | This family-run, solar-powered lodge is small and welcoming, with a simple and comfortable atmosphere. Set on the south bank of the Nile, you can choose from four spacious

cottages with four beds and en-suites, or the en-suite twin-bed safari tents. There are a further five simple camping tents pitched around a big camping area with communal facilities. The restaurant, bar and terrace all offer super views of the Nile, and guests can relax in hammocks or on sofas around picnic tables in the convivial main areas.




KIBALE

320km west of Kampala, with altitudes ranging from 1,100 to 1,590m above sea level, this marvellous national park contains moist tropical forest, woodland and savannah. Kibale is most famous for its habituated troupes of wild chimpanzees. Chances of observing chimps during the regular morning or afternoon tracking excursions exceed 90%. Serious ape enthusiasts can also enjoy a full day out with researchers from the Chimpanzee


Habituation Programme. Guided walking trails focus on tracking one of the habituated groups of chimpanzees. In addition to about 1,000 resident chimpanzees, there are another 12 primate species—the greatest variety and concentration in East Africa—including blue and red-tailed monkeys. African grey parrot and green-breasted pitta are among the 300-plus bird species present.



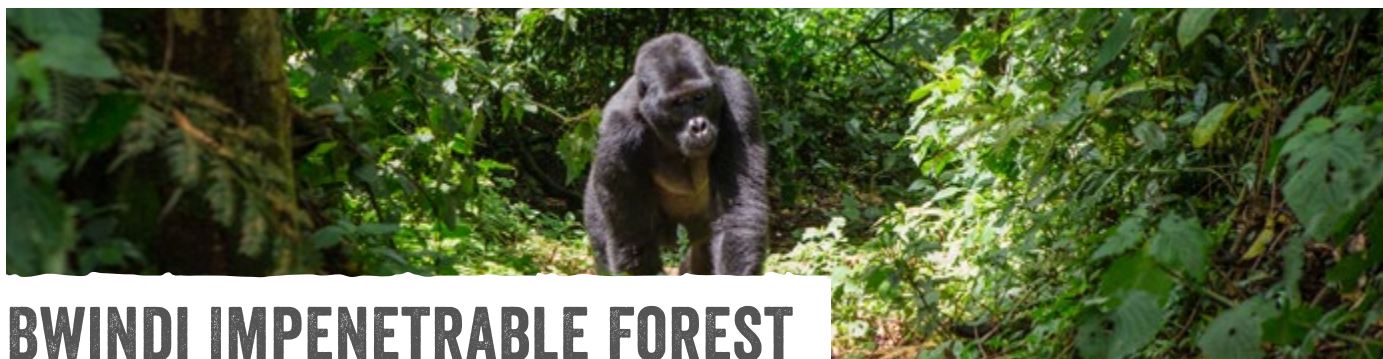
 **Primate Lodge Kibale** | If you want to go chimpanzee tracking in Kibale, this lodge’s location is unrivalled, just minutes away from the park’s headquarters. There are nine luxury cottages and seven standard rooms to

choose from, all with en-suite bathrooms. The luxury cottages all feature balconies with views of the forest. Ten minutes from the lodge you’ll find the Sky Tree House, which boasts exceptional vistas and which guests can book for the night. The food and service is good and there are a number of excellent birding and night walks guests can strike out on.



 **Kyaninga Lodge** | Built on the edge of Kyaninga Crater Lake, this mountain lodge is surrounded by primeval forest is exceptionally well designed. The eight cottages are built on platforms and set well apart from each

other to ensure maximum privacy and tranquillity. Raised wooden walkways connect the cottages to each other and the main building, pool, and tennis and croquet lawns. Each cottage has an en-suite bathroom, either twin or double beds—all huge—and private decks that look out on to the lake, with views of the Mountains of the Moon in the distance.



BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST

On the eastern edge of the Albertine Rift lies UNESCO-listed Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, one of the best places in the world to view the few remaining mountain gorillas. Words are inadequate to describe the feeling of watching one of our closest relatives engaged in familiar social interactions—protective parents scolding their inquisitive children for straying too far from the family and teenagers struggling to assert themselves as alpha males.



Buhoma Lodge | One of the original lodges in Bwindi, Buhoma is located just five minutes' walk from the gorilla trekking start point. The eight cottages are all spacious, with en-suite bathrooms, comfortable

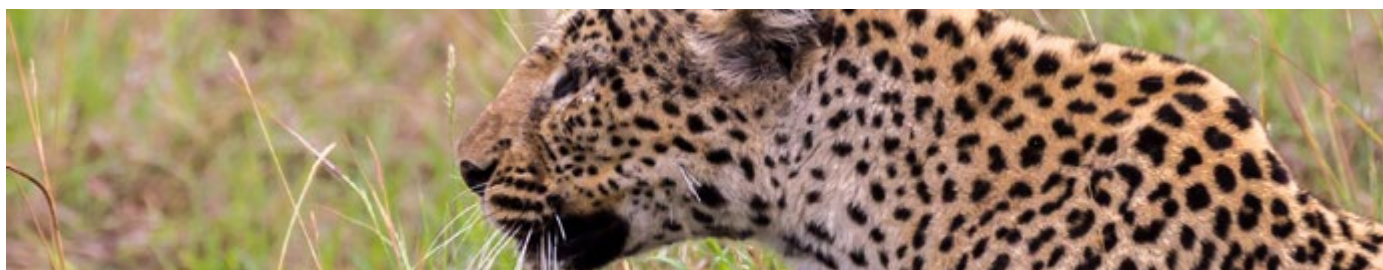
beds and private verandas. There is a cosy lounge, dining room, and a fireplace to gather around on cool evenings. The owners put emphasis on environmental and social policies, with local ingredients utilised as much as possible, staff sourced and trained from the local area, and the camp's electricity run on solar power.



Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge |

The eight lovely terraced rooms and two private cottages at Nkuringo are all en-suite. There are also four safari tents, all sensitively constructed with local materials, that offer

shared facilities. This is a superb lodge, perched on Nteko Ridge with the peaks of the Virungas in the distance. The only lodge to date in Uganda to have obtained carbon neutral status, an astonishing achievement given its remote location, Nkuringo works hard to help the environment and support local people wherever possible.



QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

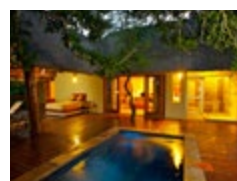
Queen Elizabeth National Park contains diverse ecosystems including acacia grassland, papyrus swamp, tropical forest and flamingo-lined volcanic crater lakes. Here the greatest variety of mammals in Uganda is found, including sitatunga, elephant, herds of Uganda kob, and black-and-white colobus. Home to 20 species of predator, it is the best place in Uganda to seek leopards. Among the 568 recorded bird species are the black-headed gonolek, the beautiful black bee-eater and swamp flycatcher.



Ishasha Wilderness Camp |

This tented safari camp lies in the remote, unspoilt Ishasha region of the park. The ten East Africa-style tents are tucked away on the banks of the Ntungwe River, set well apart from each

other for maximum privacy. Each has an en-suite bathroom, twin beds, a private veranda and simple but tasteful furnishings. The food is excellent, with four-course dinners served outside by the river if the weather is good. The well-stocked bar stays open all day and the tented lounge area offers comfortable seating and complimentary hot drinks and biscuits.



Elephant Plains Lodge |

Commanding panoramic views over the savannah and plains of Queen Elizabeth National Park, this lodge offers great game viewing and comfortable rooms. Up to 20 guests can be

accommodated in the six spacious, luxurious en-suite rooms and two family cottages, elegantly decorated with private verandas. Facilities include a beautifully-designed communal lounge, a spacious restaurant with outside deck, a bar, craft shop, and a lovely swimming pool.




OTHER PARKS

Uganda boasts a number of other wonderful parks. Kidepo Valley is perhaps the country's best-kept secret. It's the most isolated park in Uganda and is home to a number of species found nowhere else in the country including eland, ostrich, and cheetah. Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is Uganda's smallest park and lies right on the border with Rwanda. Here you can track endangered mountain gorillas, see golden monkeys, and follow the fascinating Batwa settlement walk. Semliki Wildlife Reserve, on the other hand, is a


vast, low-lying expanse bordered by the Rift Valley, the Rwenzori foothills, and Lake Albert. This is one of the only parks in Uganda where you can take night drives. Wildlife includes chimps, leopards, and lions. Rwenzori Mountains National Park encompasses two thirds of the "Mountains of the Moon", Africa's highest mountain range, which features stunning Afro-Alpine scenery, waterfalls, upland bogs and Afro-montane forest. This is a hiker's paradise.



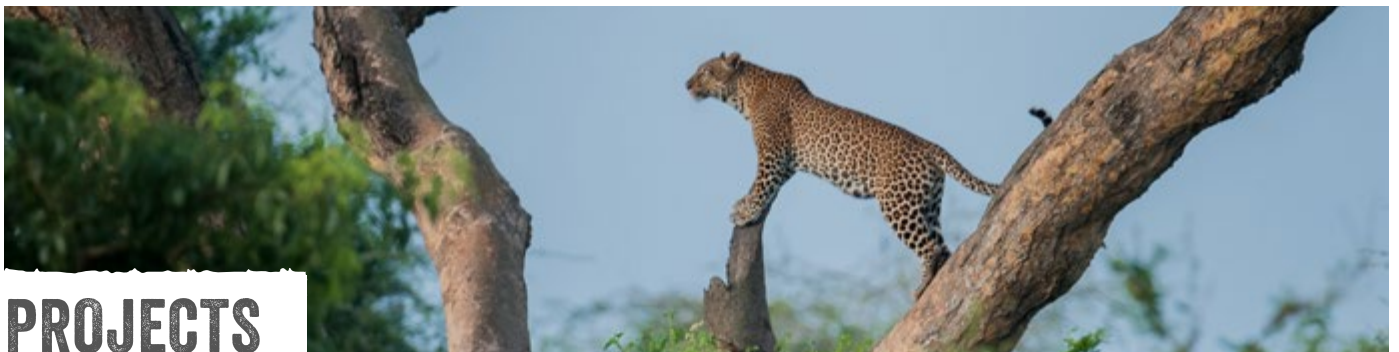
 **Apoka Safari Lodge** | From the privacy of your personal veranda at Apoka, you can watch the abundant wildlife of Kidepo go by. The ten spacious rooms have natural canvas walls, and everything is handmade by

local craftsmen including the large beds. All boast sitting rooms, en-suite bathrooms and a private outdoor stone bathtub from where you can enjoy the views. The main area features a stunning swimming pool, hewn out of the natural rock and perpetually cool so you can escape the heat.



 **Semliki Safari Lodge** | Offering some of the finest accommodation in Uganda, the eight large thatched tents of Semliki Safari Lodge boast four-poster beds, Persian carpets, hand-carved furniture, a private veranda and a

log bathroom. All sit on raised platforms with beautiful views over either forest or grassland. The central dining and lounge area is partly open-sided and wonderfully spacious. A large dining table is the setting for truly sumptuous meals, with stunning views of the surrounding forest. There is also a swimming pool and communal entertainment area.



PROJECTS

A great deal of work is being done in Uganda to preserve the land and wildlife for future generations. The major projects include CTPH, a group working hard to improve the security of gorillas and their environments primarily by supporting local communities, improving public health, and educating people to reduce the transmission of diseases between people, wildlife and livestock. The Uganda Carnivore Program is dedicated to the monitoring,

research, and conservation of predator species in Uganda. Gorilla Habituation is conducted over approximately five to ten years in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park by conservation staff who painstakingly research and habituate gorilla groups to human presence so tourists can safely meet them. Lastly, both Kidepo Valley National Park and Wild Places work with the remote Ik tribe to manage tourism and support the community.



Gorilla Doctors | This organisation is dedicated to conserving wild mountain and eastern lowland gorillas both through direct veterinary work with the gorillas and through the One Health

approach. This approach recognises the threat of disease transmission between humans, livestock and gorillas, and therefore works hard to improve the health of the communities surrounding the parks where the gorillas live to reduce the risk of disease as much as possible.



Lion Monitoring Program | Part of the Uganda Carnivore Program, lion monitoring was begun in the 1990s when concerns were raised about large numbers of lions dying out due to the

spread of the canine distemper virus. Research showed that the problem was actually poison, and since then consistent monitoring of the lion and wider predator population has been ongoing in close collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and Makerere University.



Tree-climbing lion

SIMPLY UGANDA GORILLAS & GAME

This private, fully guided individual tour takes you to Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to track endangered mountain gorillas, before travelling to Queen Elizabeth National Park for a stay at Ishasha Wilderness Camp. Lastly, enjoy a night in Mweya, the northern sector of this incredible national park.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart London Heathrow on your overnight flight to Entebbe via Nairobi.

Day 2 Entebbe | Upon arrival into Uganda's capital, you will be met by your professional driver-guide and transferred to your hotel. There are excursions available in the afternoon if you wish, including a dugout adventure into Mabamba Swamp in search of shoebills.

Day 3 Entebbe to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Transfer to the airport for the two-hour light aircraft flight to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. On arrival at the airstrip, you will be met and transferred to the park for a three-night stay in wonderful Buhoma Lodge. Here, you might spot some stunning birds right in the garden, such as the Ross's turacou.

Day 4 Bwindi Impenetrable Forest | After breakfast, you will be escorted to the park HQ for your briefing, before setting out on your gorilla trek. Led by experienced trackers, you may find the gorillas quickly or it could take up to six hours or more. One thing is for sure: the experience will stay with you forever.

Day 5 Bwindi Impenetrable Forest | Today choose between a second gorilla trek or the many activities around the lodge, including forest walks, community walks, or simply relaxing and drinking in the stunning surroundings.

Day 6 Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to Ishasha There is another chance for a second gorilla trek today, or perhaps take a birding walk in the forest or visit the local Batwa Pygmy community. In

the afternoon, transfer to the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park for an overnight stay at Ishasha Wilderness Camp.

Day 7 Queen Elizabeth National Park | Spend the morning and afternoon out on exciting game drives in search of the famous tree-climbing lions found in this part of the park, heading back to the lodge for lunch.

Day 8 Queen Elizabeth National Park to Mweya Head north for about three or four hours into the Mweya sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park for a stay at Mweya Lodge. A full day of game viewing gives you the chance to spot animals you may have missed the day before. Additionally, enjoy a launch cruise on the Kazinga Channel, famed for its wildlife and aquatic birdlife.

Day 9 Depart Uganda | This morning, you will be transferred by road to Kasese airstrip for the mid-morning light aircraft flight back to Entebbe international airport. Check in for your mid-afternoon flight back to London Heathrow via Nairobi.

Day 10 Arrive in the UK





RWANDA

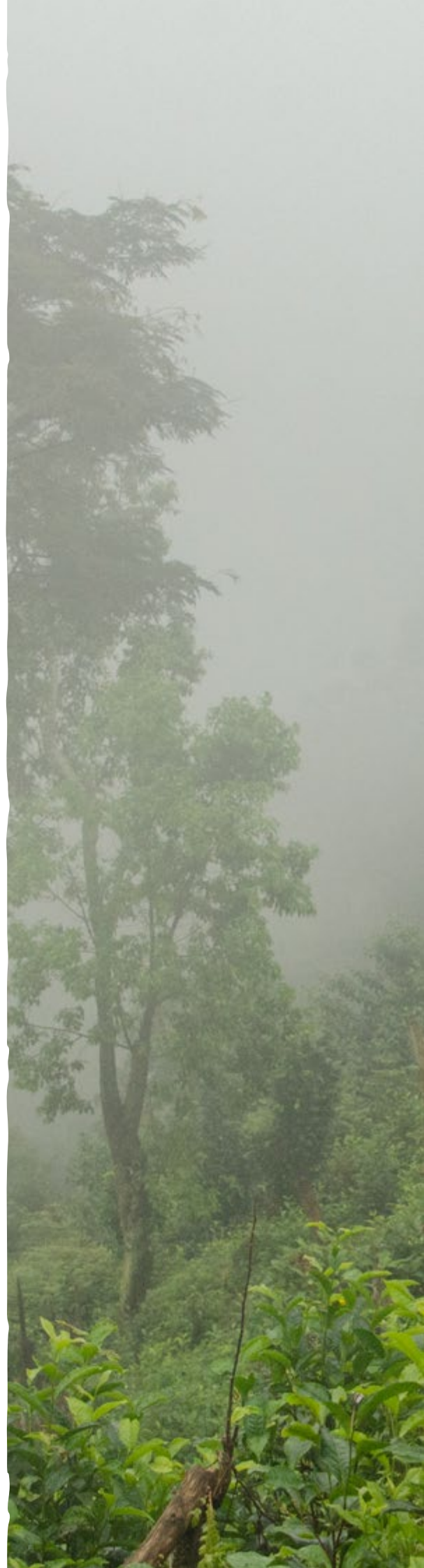
Rwanda, Africa's premier gorilla-tracking destination, is a tiny country half the size of Scotland. Since 1995, the government has been focused on reconciliation and economic growth, and the role that tourism has played in alleviating poverty and reinforcing civil stability means you will find a warm and genuine welcome when you travel here.

The main highlight is, of course, Volcanoes National Park and its population of mountain gorillas. Nearly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas are found here, and tourism is being very carefully managed to ensure minimum impact on these amazing creatures. In line with Rwanda's "high value" tourism agenda, gorilla tracking permits now cost US\$1,500 per person.

However, Rwanda is not all about its gorillas. Nyungwe National Park boasts 13 species of primate and diverse birdlife, Lake Kivu is a scenic high-altitude lake, and the former capital Butare has mesmerising Intore dancers and a memorable ethnographic museum.

The current capital, Kigali, is a clean and pretty city—not to mention remarkably safe to explore. It's well worth a tour, especially to the powerful Gisozi Genocide Memorial, which is an incredibly moving site and highly educational. Other interesting sites include Nyamirambo, the original old part of the city, and the Caplaki Handicrafts Cooperative.

“
This is a beautiful country of hills, lakes and rivers. It is astonishingly green and extremely fertile. The star inhabitants are the mountain gorillas, but there is plenty more to do and see in Rwanda, from Ruwenzori colobus monkeys to newly-reintroduced lions.
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Alternative Experiences

- Learn about the history and management of Akagera National Park
- Relax in Kigali milk bars and do some tasting
- Canoe along the Mukungwa River for spectacular views
- Mountain bike through rural Rwandan countryside near Volcanoes National Park
- Kayak between uninhabited islands on Lake Kivu

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Rwanda can be visited year-round. The rainy season occurs in April and May, with short rains in November.

GETTING THERE

Kenya Airways flies from London Heathrow to Nairobi and offers a good connection onwards to Kigali. Brussels Air flies from Brussels to Kigali with connections from all major UK airports. There are also options with other airlines such as Rwandair and KLM. Please speak to a Rainbow specialist for more information.

GMT

+2 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Rwanda. British citizens can obtain a visa on arrival. These cost from US\$50.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required upon entry. Rwanda is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.

Gorilla, Volcanoes National Park



NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

Extending for nearly 1,000km² over the mountains of south west Rwanda, Nyungwe Forest National Park is the largest swathe of tropical montane forest left in Africa. The mountainous region is a remarkably rich centre of biodiversity with 86 mammal species, 280 birds, 120 butterflies and more than 100 varieties of orchid. The spectacular canopy walkway is a great way to spot the flora and fauna. The main attractions

in Nyungwe are the chance to track chimpanzees, large troops of Rwenzori colobus monkeys and the beautiful, endangered golden monkey. Guides lead you through the forest in search of these elusive creatures, as well as the striking l'Hoest's monkey and grey-cheeked mangabey. While walking, keep an eye out for the 75 known mammals in Nyungwe including the serval, mongoose, African giant squirrel and yellow-backed duiker.



 **Nyungwe House** | This luxury lodge was built to blend in with its surrounding environment—in this case, a lush tea plantation along the edges of the Nyungwe rainforest. All the rooms are en-suite and face

the forest for stunning views of the nature right on your doorstep. The hotel offers an outdoor heated pool, two treatment rooms, a Jacuzzi, fitness centre, a bar, and a restaurant with exceptional levels of service. Throughout it is smart and stylish, extremely comfortable and the perfect base from which to explore the forest.



 **Emeraude Kivu Resort** | On top of a hill and offering panoramic views of Lake Kivu sits the Emeraude Kivu Resort. Run by owners with impressive credentials combining wildlife conservation, law, and hotel manage-

ment, this is a superb resort near Cyangugu. In fact Eugene Rutagarama, one half of the owner duo, is a recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize. The eight rooms are very comfortable, with en-suite facilities and a private balcony overlooking the lake. The food is of particular note, as is the service, which is of consistently high quality.




AKAGERA

Akagera National Park lies in eastern Rwanda, bordering Tanzania. It is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes, the largest of which is Lake Ihema. The forest-fringed lakes, papyrus swamps, savannah plains and rolling highlands combine to make Akagera among the most scenic reserves anywhere on the continent. It has exceptional levels of biodiversity and forms the largest protected


wetland in central Africa. The game in the park is still recovering after years of poaching and human interference, but it is possible to see topi, Masai giraffes, zebras, hippos and crocodiles. Elephants, eland, reedbucks and sable and roan antelope are among other mammals present. Exciting developments include the reintroduction of lions and a breeding nucleus of black rhinos, making this Rwanda's only Big Five park.



 **Karengu Bush Camp** | This seasonal camp is set up twice a year and then vanishes without a trace, proving its dedication to leaving as light a footprint as possible. The six tents accommodate a maximum of 12

visitors, providing an intimate safari experience. Tents feature comfortable camp beds, chairs, and reed mat floors, with a rural outdoor bathroom close to the tent. Food is served in the dining tent, and the entire camp is built from eco-friendly materials. Your stay at Karengu puts you at the heart of the bush in a truly authentic safari experience.



 **Ruzizi Tented Lodge** | Intimate, solar-powered Ruzizi has seven en-suite tents nestled on the forested shore of Lake Ihema, surrounded by palm trees. Each has its own private patio at the front. The camp as a whole

is luxurious, with the tents constructed around the main building that houses the reception area, lounge, dining area and bar. Tents are connected to the main building by wooden walkways, and the atmosphere is peaceful and calm. Settle down on the large main deck in the shade of a fig tree to sip sundowners and gaze out over the lake.



VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Volcanoes National Park

Volcanoes National Park in the north of the country protects the Rwandan section of the magnificent Virunga Mountains, a range of six extinct and three active volcanoes that straddles Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Bamboo forest, woodland, heathlands and swamp are contained within its boundaries. The various biospheres are inhabited by golden monkeys, buffalo, elephant, bushbuck, many small predators,

and more than 200 bird species. Most importantly, the park holds the largest remaining population of mountain gorillas. No wildlife experience can surpass meeting a troop of mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. Each gorilla group has its own around-the-clock armed protection. This is the world's most endangered ape—there are only around 1,000 remaining.



🏠 Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge | Sabyinyo is an exciting joint venture between the local community, who own the lodge, and Governor's Camps. The Kenyan company have designed and built the lodge to an impeccable

standard. It features both luxurious en-suite cottages constructed out of local stone, and suites, depending on your preference, with stylish décor and private verandas. The delicious meals can be taken either in the dining room or on the outside deck, which offers breathtaking views of the Virunga volcanoes. The lodge also features a bar, library and games room, and staff are helpful and friendly.



🏠 Five Volcanoes | This boutique hotel offers outstanding service and luxurious accommodation, tucked away in Musanze with beautiful gardens and plenty of little details that really elevate it, such as a complimentary shoe-cleaning

service when you return from a muddy gorilla trek. The rooms are all en-suite and smartly decorated, while the VIP cottage also offers a living room, small kitchen, dining area and private garden. The restaurant, bar and lounge area all have spectacular views of the volcanoes, and there is a pool for you to cool off in as well as massages available to book.



Gorilla Trekking

Visitors meet at the park headquarters at 7am. Up to 80 people are split into groups of eight to seek the ten habituated gorilla families. Trekking is relatively easy. It can be quick, or it can take a few hours to find the group.


Once your allocated group is found, you can spend one hour with them. People tend to be allocated to different groups according to their fitness level. The Susa group of gorillas is the furthest away and we suggest you visit them if you are fit and wish to make a second trek.



LAKE KIVU

Misty, high-altitude Lake Kivu forms the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. It's a busy lake, alive with traders and fishermen in their dugout canoes. Drives along Lake Kivu are long and on unmade roads, but they offer the opportunity to observe rural life as it has been for centuries. You will see people at work cultivating bananas, cassava, sorghum, beans, rice, potatoes and coffee in steep, tiny fields. There are




 **Kivu Lodge** | Set on its own private peninsula jutting out into Lake Kivu, Kivu Lodge is remote and serene, with airy and spacious rooms and friendly, helpful staff, many of them from the local area. The 21

rooms are a mix of double and twin, with family options, all featuring en-suite bathrooms and private balconies facing the water. At sunset, you can sit out and hear fishermen singing as they head out for the night's work. There is a large infinity pool, a bar, charming gardens and a firepit, as well as a restaurant offering excellent food.

massive tea plantations around little villages and brickworks. Along the lakeshore you will find the pretty town of Kibuye and Gisenyi lakeside resort which acts as a border crossing point into the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Gisenyi, take a boat on the lake, visit the Imbabazi Orphanage, or take a drive into the remnants of ancient Gishwati Forest.



 **Lake Kivu Serena** | This Serena hotel is open and airy, with superb focus on warmth, hospitality and relaxation among the beauty and pristine beaches of Lake Kivu. The 66 rooms and suites are beautifully decorated,


with en-suite bathrooms and private balconies looking over the hotel's private beach and the lake beyond. Modern comforts combine with spacious layouts for the ultimate retreat. Eat at the restaurant or café and sip at sundowners from the bar on the beach or by the pool. The hotel also features a wonderful spa and gym, plus a gift shop and plenty of activities.



KIGALI

The capital city of Rwanda is full of contrasts and is utterly delightful. The city centre is busy, bustling and colourful, while the administrative and government quarter is more peaceful, with wide, shady streets and white-walled houses, whose beautiful gardens can often be glimpsed. This is a remarkably safe town to explore and touring on foot is a lovely way to explore.



 **Kigali Serena** | This Serena hotel features an enchanting blend of Rwandan heritage, art, culture, and luxurious five-star comfort. The 148 rooms and suites are all stylish and sophisticated, with en-suite

bathrooms and comfortable furnishings. There are various levels of room to suit every need, all chic and quiet. Two restaurants and 24-hour room service will keep you fed with delicious food, and a range of facilities including a pool, spa and health club, and a business centre are sure to keep you busy. Don't miss the beautiful gardens, a lovely retreat from the city outside.

Don't miss Nyamirambo, the old town, or the Muslim quarter. The new handicraft village is also a treat to explore, as is the Batwa pottery and dance centre. The Gisozi Genocide Memorial is sobering but powerful, an intensely moving experience that takes around two hours to complete.

“

Kigali is a thriving, bustling capital with a remarkable feeling of safety throughout, making it perfect to explore on foot.

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Gorilla, Volcanoes National Park

RWANDA CULTURE, PRIMATES & NATURE

Explore the highlights of Rwanda on this 10-day tailor-made tour, including the mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, exquisite Nyungwe Forest National Park, scenic high-altitude Lake Kivu and the lakeside towns of Kibuye and Gisenyi. Butare and Kigali, Rwanda's two bustling main urban centres, are also on the agenda.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from the UK to Nairobi.

Day 2 Nairobi to Kigali | Upon arrival in Nairobi, transfer on to the flight to Kigali, Rwanda's bustling capital. Here you will be met by your private driver/guide and taken to the wonderful Kigali Serena for your first night. Enjoy a guided city tour and plenty of time to recuperate from your flight by the pool.

Day 3 Kigali to Nyungwe Forest National Park | After breakfast, make the drive to Nyungwe, the largest single tract of montane forest remaining in Africa. It is a remarkable centre of biodiversity and the most important birding site in Rwanda. En-route to Nyungwe, stop at Butare and, after tours and an exciting performance here, let your driver know if you'd like to stop at the Murambi Genocide Site.

Day 4 Nyungwe Forest National Park | Enjoy a full day of guided forest walks in search of primates and birds, and to simply enjoy the forest's stunning scenery. The resident chimps are the highlight for most visitors, and experienced guides will do their best to find a troupe for you.

Day 5 Nyungwe Forest National Park to Lake Kivu | Set out on the long and scenic drive to Kibuye, on the shores of Lake Kivu. It takes around five hours in total and offers an unparalleled opportunity to witness life in rural Rwanda, still mostly unchanged for centuries.

Day 6 Lake Kivu | Head north east along the lake side to Gisenyi, where you will overnight at the gorgeous Kivu Serena hotel. The drive takes

about three or four hours and is thoroughly beautiful, largely through an area of intensive subsistence farming and the remains of the Gishwati Forest.

Day 7 Lake Kivu to Volcanoes National Park | Enjoy time in the morning to relax at the hotel or explore the town of Gisenyi, before making the three-hour drive in the afternoon to Musanze at Volcanoes National Park, the home of the famous gorillas.

Day 8 Volcanoes National Park | It's an early start for your first day of gorilla trekking. Staff from the park headquarters will brief you on conduct around the gorillas, and then the trackers will lead you into the forest slopes to seek out one of the resident and habituated mountain gorilla family groups.

Day 9 Volcanoes National Park to Kigali | Use your remaining time to undertake one of many activities available, including birding, visiting the golden monkeys, climbing Mount Bisoke, or more. There is also the option to do a second gorilla trek for an additional fee, which Rainbow highly recommends—the first experience can be so overwhelming it feels like just minutes. In the afternoon, make the two and a half hour drive back to Kigali.

Day 10 Depart Rwanda | Today there is the time to visit the Genocide Memorial Museum if you wish, before you transfer to the airport for your flight to Nairobi, where you connect with the overnight flight to London.

Day 11 Arrive in the UK





REPUBLIC OF CONGO

To the west of its infamous neighbour, the Republic of Congo—also known as Congo-Brazzaville—is a stable country that contains the second largest expanse of tropical rainforest in Africa. It boasts a rich diversity of flora and fauna, the most famous of which are the habituated groups of western lowland gorillas. These can be visited with experienced trackers and guides in Odzala National Park.

Wildlife viewing in the Republic of Congo is somewhat different than in the more established African safari destinations. Equatorial forest mammals are fascinating but often shy and can be difficult to observe. One of the most rewarding ways to see the larger mammals is to hunker down and observe them as they congregate at one of the salt licks or “bais”; marshy clearings that punctuate the great expanses of dense rainforest.

Be prepared for light adventure when you travel to the Republic of Congo. The country is remote and the terrain quite rugged, so getting from one point

to another might involve a combination of methods, including river-walking, dugout canoes, 4x4s, motorised boats, and even light aircraft on occasion.

If you’re eager to explore the Republic of Congo, Rainbow recommends our Congo Explorer and Gorillas itinerary. Run by passionate, knowledgeable local suppliers, it provides a superb overview of Odzala-Kokua National Park and its fascinating denizens.

“*This is the ultimate alternative destination for experienced Africa travellers keen on some light adventure far off the beaten track. A holiday to the Republic of Congo is fresh, different, much enjoyed by our guests who have done it, and definitely not your run-of-the-mill African escapade.*”





Alternative Experiences

- Watch forest elephants, forest buffalo, bongo, and more congregating at a bai
- Track the habituated groups of lowland gorillas
- Marvel at flocks of African grey parrots and other avian gems like black bee-eaters in this 450-species strong Important Bird Area
- Undertake a night excursion in Odzala-Kokoua in search of nocturnal animals such as civets and endemic bats
- Look for various resident monkey species during a boat trip on Lekoli River

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

The dry season is from June to October. The short rains fall from October to December and long rains from January to May.

GETTING THERE

Air France operates regular flights to the capital, Brazzaville, via Paris. Kenya Airways flies via Nairobi. You can also connect from Johannesburg.

GMT

+1 hour

VISAS

Visas are required for the Republic of Congo along with proof of hotel/lodge reservation.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required upon entry. The Republic of Congo is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.

For more information on the Republic of Congo, please visit our website www.rainbowtours.co.uk or ring our travel specialists on 020 7666 1250.

African Grey Parrots



SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone is warm, welcoming, and the ultimate destination for those looking for an authentic "undiscovered Africa" experience well off the beaten track. This is one of Africa's least-known and most enticing holiday destinations, still virtually empty following years of troubles and now eager to begin welcoming tourists once more.

This is not a destination full of five-star lodges and luxurious safari experiences. What it is full of, however, is plenty of adventure, spectacular natural treasures, and fascinating, friendly people who will be eager to talk to you. The guides and drivers we work with are all truly outstanding and keen to ensure that you have the best possible experience.

Discover hundreds of kilometres of white-sand beaches, lush evergreen forests containing some of the highest concentrations of primates and birds in the world, fascinating wildlife such as western red colobus, white-necked picathartes and hammerhead bats and a deep and rich cultural history entwined with the abolition of slavery.

“

Travel in Sierra Leone is all about connecting with the places you visit and the people who live there. The accommodation may not be five-star, but the quality of the experiences awaiting you certainly is.

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Alternative Experiences

- If you're headed to the peninsula, have lunch at the restaurant run by well-known expat Franco
- Sample the delicious fresh seafood on Banana Island
- Explore the forests of Tiwai Island, where chimpanzees were first recorded using tools
- Sleep in a rondavel bungalow in Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and get up early for morning forest walks
- Save plenty of time for relaxing on the beaches or diving in the azure waters

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

The best time to visit Sierra Leone is in the dry season, which runs from October to May. January and February tend to be the hottest months. You can travel in June and late September, but be prepared for heavy downpours and very muddy rural roads.

GETTING THERE

Brussels Airlines operate regular flights from London Heathrow to Freetown via Brussels.

GMT

+0 hours

VISAS

Visas are required for Sierra Leone and must be obtained in advance of travel. A single-entry visa for British citizens currently costs £109.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates are required upon entry. Sierra Leone is a malarial area and precautions should be taken.




PENINSULA BEACHES & BANANA ISLAND

From Freetown, a string of some of Africa’s most stunning beaches stretch south along the coast, bracketed by lush green rainforest and refreshing Atlantic waves. If you travel just a few miles from Freetown, you’ll likely be sharing the white sands only with groups of fishermen and their distinctive fishing boats made from hollowed-out tree trunks. Take advantage of their catches at any of the good quality restaurants along the peninsula. Banana Island—in reality actually two main islands, Dublin and


Ricketts, connected by a causeway—also boasts stunning beaches. Most visitors are brought here by the history, however. Banana Island’s darkest years saw it function as a slaving station, and there are reminders of this scattered around. After the abolition of slavery, many freed slaves were brought back to Sierra Leone, and most of their 900 descendants currently living on Banana Island are happy to provide tours to curious visitors and share the island’s stories with you.



 **The Home Suites Boutique Hotel** | Nestled in Aberdeen, Freetown, this is our accommodation of choice for Freetown and a great base from which to explore the city and peninsula beaches. Rooms are

comfortable and stylish, with various categories available to suit every traveller. The service is thoughtful and attentive and the food at the hotel’s restaurant, The Swan Restaurant & Grill, is excellent.



 **Bafa Resort** | Bafa Resort has introduced the concept of “glamping” to Sierra Leone. Here you’ll find comfortable but basic tents, a bar that offers cocktails made with fresh, locally-sourced fruit juice, fresh Sierra

Leonean food with an international twist at the restaurant, and a beautiful beach complete with hammocks for afternoon snoozes. It’s perfectly located for light adventures including canoeing, kayaking and village tours.




TIWAI ISLAND & GOLA

Tiwai is a 1,200-hectare wildlife reserve in the middle of the Moa River, and the only community conservation programme in Sierra Leone. It protects one of the richest concentrations of flora and fauna in the country. More than 130 species of bird have been recorded here, and there are 11 species of primate including the endangered western red colobus and chimpanzees. Tiwai is also one of the few known refuges of the highly elusive pygmy hippopotamus.

Gola Rainforest National Park has been the beneficiary of heavy investment from, among others, the RSPB, due to its status as an Important Bird Area. The highly fragmented Upper Guinea Rainforest ecosystem, of which Gola protects 71,070 hectares, hosts special species like the rufous fishing owl, white-breasted guineafowl and Gola malimbe. Gola also boasts many fascinating mammal and plant species, including pygmy hippos, zebra duiker, and white-bellied (tree) pangolin.



 **Tiwai Island** | Accommodation at Tiwai is very basic, with just two options: you can either stay in the basic lodge, which has three double rooms and four single rooms with three shared bathrooms; or in simple

tents. There is a communal kitchen and the lodge has an outdoor dining area. Members of the local community prepare regional dishes for guests if you are interested in ordering from them.

“
The variety of animals, plants and birds in Tiwai and Gola is sensational.
”



Western red colobus,
Tiwai Island

SIERRA LEONE NATURAL HISTORY EXPLORER

This suggested itinerary is designed to introduce adventurers to the fascinating and still little-explored Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem, and is perfect for keen nature enthusiasts looking to get off the beaten track. Forest-dependent wildlife is the focus of the trip, and destinations include Tiwai Island, Tacugama Chimpanzee Centre, and Gola Rainforest.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 UK to Freetown | Depart on your early morning flight to Freetown via Brussels. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred by boat across the estuary to your hotel for the night.

Day 2 Freetown to Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary | After breakfast, head for Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary where you will learn about the inspirational work being done by Bala and his team, who now care for more than 100 chimpanzees. Here you can take an optional guided forest walk, with excellent birding opportunities.

Day 3 Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary to Tiwai Island | Set off after breakfast for rainforest-clad Tiwai Island, with a stop en-route at Bo for lunch. Arrive mid-afternoon and take some time to relax before heading out in the late afternoon or early evening for a boat trip up Moa River. Enjoy spectacular views and keep an eye out for the forest-dwelling monkeys and some of the 135 species of birds.

Day 4 Tiwai Island | Take a guided morning walk in the evergreen forest to see diurnal wildlife at its most active. You may spot some of the 11 species of primate that live here, including western red colobus, Diana monkeys and lesser spot-nosed monkeys. After an early lunch, travel by boat back to the mainland to learn about the culture and heritage of the rural villages of Kambama and Nianiahun. In the evening, head back into the forest for a guided walk seeking out nocturnal primates and birds.

Day 5 Tiwai Island to Gola Rainforest National Park | After another early morning forest walk,

depart for Gola Rainforest via Bo. Stop for lunch in the grounds of the Pastoral Centre in Kenema, then drive to Lalehun. Drink in the tranquillity of the forest, and take a late-afternoon stroll into the rainforest with your guide. In the evening, you will be welcomed with a traditional "Devil Dance" performance by the Gola people with dinner.

Day 6 Gola Rainforest National Park | Today choose between an early start into the rainforest to search out some of Gola's many birds during the dawn chorus, with the rest of the morning at leisure in the lodge. After lunch, head back into the rainforest to visit a colony of white-necked picathartes. Alternatively, walk to the African Buffalo Field where you may see African buffalo and duikers, visit the ancient gravesites of the Gola chiefs and learn about the medicinal uses of indigenous trees and plants.

Day 7 Gola Rainforest National Park to Banana Islands | Take a morning forest walk for the dawn chorus, then depart Gola and return to Freetown, with a lunch stop at Bo. From Kent Village on the peninsula, take the boat transfer to the Banana Islands and explore this tranquil island paradise. Optional activities include hiking, snorkelling, or scenic boat trips.

Day 8 Banana Islands to Tokeh Beach | Enjoy breakfast then leave the Banana Islands and head to Bureh Beach to meet the residents and enjoy a seafood lunch. Move on to Tokeh Beach, a small coastal village on the Western Area Peninsula which boasts one of the most beautiful beaches in Sierra Leone.

Day 9 Depart Freetown | Travel back to the coast to Freetown for some last-minute shopping. Transfer to the airport to check in to your overnight flight back to London via Brussels.

Day 10 Arrive in the UK | Return to London Heathrow or Manchester with Ethiopian Airlines, arriving home in the early morning.





ETHIOPIA

Much of "the Roof of Africa" is green and fertile. Breathtaking scenery and expansive national parks couple with fascinating endemic wildlife such as the grass-eating Gelada monkey, red Ethiopian wolf and agile Walia ibex. Among the strange, twisted peaks of the Tigray Highlands you'll find churches and monasteries perched at the top of narrow fingers of rock. The mountainous central plateau boasts 20 peaks that rise more than 4,000m above sea level, and the Rift Valley Lakes and Blue Nile Falls are both areas of outstanding natural beauty. Wherever you look in Ethiopia, nature does not disappoint.

It is Ethiopia's Historic Circuit that is the real draw, though. In Gondar, you can see the amazing stone castles built by a descendant of Ethiopia's most famous historical figures—the Queen of Sheba, Makeda, and her son by the Biblical King Solomon, Menelik. Also built by a member of the Solomonic dynasty were the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela, constructed in the 11th and 12th centuries and still in use by white-robed pilgrims today. At Axum, you'll find remnants of a once-mighty empire that rivalled ancient Rome and Persia.

With more than 80 ethnic groups calling Ethiopia home, you will discover a vibrant culture and fascinating yearly festivals including Timket, the most important event on the Ethiopian calendar that commemorates the baptism of Christ.

Ethiopia is a land of ancient history, stunning landscapes and amazing culture and tradition. Don't miss the Danakil Depression, the lowest point on the African continent, or the chance to peek at the church that supposedly still houses the Ark of the Covenant.

“*Ethiopia's rock-hewn churches, monolithic stelae and ancient monasteries are just some of its star attractions. The stunning landscapes, indigenous wildlife and the diversity of its people give visitors to Ethiopia an unrivalled experience.*”



A photograph of a Gelada monkey sitting in a field of tall, dry grass. The monkey has a dark face and a large, shaggy, light-colored mane. It is looking towards the camera. In the background, there are some green plants and a tree trunk. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

Alternative Experiences

- Attend a Hamar bull-jumping ceremony in the South Omo & Konso region
- Watch fascinating hyena feeding away from the crowds of Harar at Aregash Lodge, Yirgalem
- Visit hard-to-access cliff and rock monasteries in the Tigray
- Witness both the festival of Meskel and the floral spectacle of the Highlands in September
- Learn about everyday Ethiopian life during homestays in the Wollo and the Tigray regions

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

In most of Ethiopia the rainy season falls in July and August. In the Omo Valley, however, the main rains fall in April and May.

GETTING THERE

Ethiopian Airlines operates direct flights between London and Addis Ababa daily. They also now operate four flights a week from Manchester.

GMT

+3 hours

VISAS

Visitors to Ethiopia require visas. Visas can be applied for online in advance, or purchased on arrival at Bole International Airport for US\$50.

HEALTH

Yellow fever vaccination certificates will be required if travelling from an affected area. Ethiopia is a malarial area and precautions must be taken.

Gelada monkey, Simien Mountains National Park



THE NORTHERN HISTORICAL CIRCUIT

The Church of Bete Giyorgis at Lalibela

Roughly 80% of visitors to Ethiopia travel for the country's history and culture, and when you journey around the Northern Historical Circuit, it's easy to understand why. The rock-hewn churches at Lalibela are perhaps the most famous site in Ethiopia. All were carved by hand in the 11th and 12th centuries, some out of caves and some out of solid volcanic rock. The 11 churches are still in use today, and wandering among the white-robed pilgrims is an awe-inspiring experience. In ancient Axum, once the seat of a powerful empire that stretched from the

Red Sea to Arabia, you can still see the astonishing monolithic obelisks and stelae, as well as a chapel said to house the true Ark of the Covenant. At Lake Tana, you can base yourselves at Bahir Dar and strike out to explore the stone monasteries and grass-roofed churches, many boasting stunning murals, that pepper the lake's shores and islets. The renowned castles at Gondar are located inside the Imperial Compound. The church of Debre Berhane Selassie is also found here, and its exquisitely painted walls and ceilings make it well worth visiting.



Hotel Maribela | With a design inspired by the nearby rock-hewn churches, this is one of the best hotels in Lalibela. There are a variety of rooms available, from single rooms to doubles, suites, and more. All are light and airy, with

beautiful accents of bright colour and great attention to detail. Private balconies or patios look out over the surrounding mountains, with breath-taking views. The restaurant serves both European classics and traditional Ethiopian fare in a spacious double-storey setting, and service throughout the hotel is excellent.



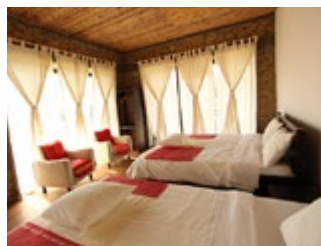
Mezena Lodge | Located across a deep valley from Lalibela, this lodge enjoys splendid views. Its 30 rock-and-thatch bungalows are furnished with king or twin beds, all with an en-suite bathroom and large TV. They are widely spaced in the

grounds for maximum privacy. The main building is beautifully designed, modern with Ethiopian architectural elements incorporated. Here you'll find the two restaurants, one of which offers international cuisine and one that offers traditional food. There is also a spacious bar, gift shop, coffee ceremony room, a large terrace and a wonderful spa.



Gheralta Lodge | This owner-run lodge is one of the most sought-after hotels in Ethiopia. Located at Hawzen, the perfect base to explore the rock-hewn churches of the Tigray Highlands, this exclusive lodge features just five en-suite

bungalows with extremely comfortable, simply decorated rooms. The proprietors offer superb food, and the hospitality and service is exceptional. In the grounds of the lodge you can take lovely strolls, including one trail to the 13th-century Tekla Kaymanot church, where you are welcome to participate in religious ceremonies.



Mayleko Lodge | Just a five-minute drive from Gondar airport, Mayleko is the perfect base for exploring the city and its sights. The 20 bungalows are spacious and tastefully furnished with rustic, traditionally-designed furniture. The

entire lodge is constructed using reclaimed and sustainable and recycled materials, and draws on local labour with regular consulting of the local community. There is a restaurant with a terrace offering beautiful views of the mountains, and the swimming pool is the perfect place to cool off in the summer.



Women of the Hamar Tribe

THE SOUTH OMO & KONSO REGION

The South Omo and Konso region lies in the south west of Ethiopia and is populated by tribes who have managed to retain their very distinctive cultural identities.

For travellers interested in culture, this is an unmissable stop on any trip to Ethiopia. You can meet the Mursi, whose women often wear enormous traditional lip plates. The Konso are recognisable by their fortified villages and intricately terraced slopes; a characteristic of this region and a delight to see as you drive through the area.

Perhaps the most special of all, though, are the Hamar. The luckiest visitors may be treated to the experience of a Hamar bull-jumping ceremony, when a boy makes the transition to manhood. To witness the ceremony is an incredibly rare privilege, as precious as coming face-to-face with a mountain gorilla in the wild or taking the "Flight of the Angels" over Victoria Falls.

“
...the South Omo and Konso region
is an unmissable stop for travellers
interested in culture...
”



Buska Lodge | On the bank of the Kaske River in the Omo region, Buska Lodge offers simple, comfortable accommodation near to the small town of Turmi, where visitors can meet the Hamar people. It has 20 spacious rooms with

en-suite bathrooms, all decorated in the traditional Tukul style. Rooms are airy and very pleasant. The two restaurants serve good food, and the staff are friendly and always eager to help. A lovely feature are the lodge's grounds, where you can wander and watch out for the prevalent local birdlife.



Kanta Lodge | 28 round bungalows make up Kanta Lodge, which is the perfect base from which to explore the Konso region. The en-suite bungalows and main building sit on a hilltop and command panoramic vistas. The

design is simple and comfortable, and the lodge's restaurant serves excellent traditional and Italian-style food. Much of the produce is grown on the property. You can sit and eat out on the lovely outdoor patio, built around a large wild fig tree. Kanta is eco-friendly, with solar power and strict recycling of waste water.



ADDIS ABABA

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's capital is a bustling, buzzing city. It boasts a selection of excellent cathedrals, and you can also visit the bones of Lucy, the famous *Australopithecus* skeleton discovered in 1974. Charmingly, the skeleton is also known as *Dinkinesh* in Ethiopia—a name that means “you are marvellous”. The splendid coffee is of particular note. We particularly recommend a brand called Tomoca. It's the best coffee Ethiopia specialist and guidebook author Derek Schuurman has ever tried!

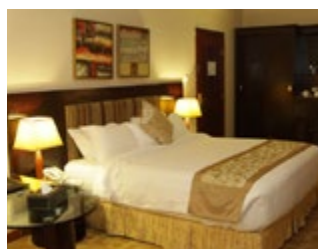


Golden Tulip |

Conveniently located just 1km from Bole International Airport, this international hotel is a great choice for Addis Ababa. The 90 rooms are comfortable and sleek, with en-suite bathrooms and European designs

with hints of Africa. There are two restaurants to choose from; one which offers French and international cuisine and the other offering Mediterranean food. The Havana Bar is a great spot to stop for a cocktail after a day of sightseeing.

The highlights of the calendar in Ethiopia include the two festivals of Timket and Meskel, and the celebrations for both are at their most spectacular in Addis Ababa, with processions, songs, and joy everywhere you look. Timket takes place in January to celebrate the Baptism of Christ, while Meskel in September celebrates the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena. Rainbow Tours organises small set departures tours that get you to the heart of both festivals, so speak to a travel specialist to find out more.



Jupiter International Hotel Bole |

With great proximity to local attractions and just 2km from Bole International Airport, Jupiter International is extremely well located. Its 40 rooms and suites are very comfortable, and the hotel further

benefits from friendly, professional staff and a wonderfully cosy ambience. The restaurant serves a wide range of choices for meals, and the bar area is relaxed and convivial. Live music is regularly put on in the bar, so it's a wonderful place to kick back and spend an evening with a tasty drink.



BALE MOUNTAINS & SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARKS

Ethiopia's national parks are home to some superb wildlife, much of it endemic. In Bale Mountains National Park, you can spot mountain nyala, Bale monkeys, and big-headed mole rats, along with many endemic bird species including the banded barbet and Abyssinian woodpecker. The elusive stars of Bale Mountains are the 400 or so critically endangered Ethiopian wolves. These beautiful red canids are the rarest in the world, and Bale is the only place where they are still easily observed.



Bale Mountain Lodge |

Sit at 2,380m above sea level beside a small river in the stunning evergreen Hareenna Forest in Bale Mountains National Park, this lodge is an exceptional place to stay. The eight en-suite chalets are spacious

but cosy, with a wood-burning furnace for the colder nights and beautiful designs. Four are attached to the main building and four are set apart for additional privacy. The service is impeccable throughout. The main dining and bar areas have welcoming fireplaces with plenty of space to sit and relax. Meals are delicious, with a set three-course menu for lunch and dinner.

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Simien Mountains National Park boasts some of the most dramatic scenery in Africa. Monumental volcanic plugs have been eroded over millennia to form fantastic crags, pinnacles and flat-topped mountains that tower over the surrounding area.

In the Simien Mountains, keep an eye out for the famous grass-eating gelada monkeys or "bleeding heart baboons", as well as the endangered Walia ibex.



Simien Lodge |

This lodge holds the distinction of being the highest-lying hotel on the continent at 3,260m above sea level. This does mean that nights can get chilly in the autumn and winter, but the en-suite chalets have

underfloor heating to keep you cosy. The main rooms feature two comfortable, extra-wide single beds and family rooms have a double bed and then two additional single beds in the separate lounge. The "highest bar in Africa" serves a great variety of drinks and puts on activities most nights, and the spacious restaurant serves international and Ethiopian cuisine.



Walia ibex

DISCOVER ETHIOPIA

Mix the most famous of Ethiopia's historical attractions with its two most impressive hotspots for endemic mammals and birds on this 15-day private tour. Visit stunning Bahir Dar, Gondar, Lalibela and Axum, and discover why Ethiopia is known as "the rooftop of Africa" as you journey into the Simien and Bale Mountains.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from the UK to Addis Ababa.

Day 2 Addis Ababa | Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and transferred to the Golden Tulip Hotel. Take a guided afternoon city tour which includes such highlights as Entoto Hills and the National Museum, where you can see "Lucy" if you wish. An option for dinner is an introduction to traditional cuisine.

Day 3 Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar | Transfer to the airport to fly to Bahir Dar on the shores of azure Lake Tana. Your guide will show you around the Zeghe Peninsula where you can see some of the picturesque island monasteries with their grass roofs.

Day 4 Bahir Dar to Gondar to Simien Mountains National Park | After breakfast, depart for Gondar, with a stop along the way to see the stunning Blue Nile Falls. At the end of the two to three hour drive you'll have lunch in Gondar, then set out for the two-hour drive up to the Simien Mountains, which boast some of the most dramatic scenery in Africa.

Day 5 Simien Mountains National Park | In the early morning, drive up to Chennek to seek out endangered Walia ibex and various raptors. Throughout the day your guide will be on the lookout for congregations of baboon-like gelada monkeys to give you the amazing "gelada experience".

Day 6 Simien Mountains National Park to Gondar | Drive back to Gondar to see the Imperial Compound with its famous castles, along with Debre Berhan Selassie church. Here you'll find Ethiopia's most iconic frieze, with rows

of angel faces plastered to the ceiling and walls.

Day 7 Gondar to Lalibela | Transfer to the airport for the morning flight to Lalibela. Upon arrival, you will be taken to see the "first cluster" of Lalibela's rock-hewn churches; all monolithic or semi-monolithic and carved into the mountains to wondrous effect.

Day 8 Lalibela | After breakfast, head out with your guide and driver for the "second cluster" of Lalibela's churches. After a delicious lunch, visit Yemrehane Kristos, arguably the finest of the churches around Lalibela with its white-and-wood façade.

Day 9 Lalibela to Axum | Fly to Axum in northern Ethiopia to see the incredible monolithic obelisks, also known as stelae, which are some of the last remnants of the powerful Axumite empire. While here also visit the Queen of Sheba's bath and the church where it is said the Ark of the Covenant is housed.

Day 10 Axum to Lake Langano | Fly back to Addis Ababa, where you will be met by your guide and driver and driven southwards into the Rift Valley. The drive takes about four hours, and your final destination is Lake Langano in the beautiful Ethiopian Rift Valley Lakes region.

Day 11 Lake Langano to Bale Mountains National Park | Drive to Goba in Bale Mountains National Park, with a stop at the park HQ in Dinsho. In the juniper-hagenia woods around Dinsho, keep an eye out for endemic mammals like the mountain nyala and Menelik's bushbuck and the superb variety of bird species.

Day 12 Bale Mountains National Park | Head up to the high-lying Sanetti Plateau, the place to go

both for sensational birding and if you're hoping to sight the world's rarest canid: the Ethiopian (or Simien, or Abyssinian) wolf. Sightings are common, and you may even see the wolves hunting for their favourite prey: giant mole rats.

Day 13 Bale Mountains National Park | Today drive to wonderful, evergreen Harenna Forest.

This is a treasure trove for naturalists, with several new reptile and frog species discovered in recent years. Mammals include lions and giant forest hogs, and the birdlife is wonderful, including Narina trogon and Abyssinian catbird.

Day 14 Bale Mountains National Park to Addis Ababa | Today you will be transferred back over the escarpment and Sanetti Plateau to the airport for your flight back to Addis Ababa. During the afternoon, visit the Merkato with your guide for some shopping. Either stay in the hotel overnight or transfer to the airport in the early hours for your flight home.

Day 15 Fly to the UK





Karo men © Ethiopian Tourist Board

SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA EXPLORER

If you are eager to delve deeper into Ethiopia, this itinerary is perfect. You can do it on its own or as an add-on to another itinerary, such as the Discover Ethiopia holiday on the facing page. You will meet some of Ethiopia's most fascinating tribes, who still preserve the traditions of their ancestors, and learn about the unique—and fragile—relationship here between the land, the people, and the encroaching modern world.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from the UK to Addis Ababa.

Day 2 Addis Ababa | Upon arrival into Addis Ababa, you will be met and transferred to the comfortable Jupiter International Hotel in Kazanchis, just a short drive from the airport. After lunch, your guide and driver will meet you and take you on a guided tour of the capital.

Day 3 Addis Ababa to Arba Minch to Konso | In the morning, you will be met and transferred to Bole airport for the short flight to Arba Minch, a "gateway" to much of Southern Ethiopia. Upon arrival, your guide and driver will meet you and drive you to Karat Konso. Keep an eye out for the distinctive terraced hills as you approach, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 4 Karat Konso to Jinka | Explore Karat Konso with your guide, including sites of interest such as the fortified Konso villages or paleta. You may also see some "waka", carvings placed on graves. Move on to Jinka, with a stop en-route for lunch or coffee in the beautiful and little-known Mago National Park, where you can see clouds of butterflies and visit a village of the Aari people.

Day 5 Jinka to Turmi | This morning have breakfast and then head to the Omo Valley Cultural Museum. After going round, collect your local guide who will accompany you to a village of the iconic Mursi tribe. They are happy to be photographed providing that payment is up front—your guide will help you with this! Explore the village and learn about the Mursi, before continuing to the outback town of Turmi, home of the Hamar people.

Day 6 Turmi and surrounds | There are plenty of activities on offer today to choose from.

You could visit a village of the Hamar, one of the most interesting tribes in Ethiopia. Then drive to the bank of the Omo River to a village of the Karo, famed for their body-painting. Throughout, your guides will be on hand to help you with insight into these fascinating people, and of course with photography fees.

Day 7 Turmi to Jinka to Addis Ababa | After breakfast, you will be driven to Jinka airport to catch the lunchtime flight back to Addis Ababa. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the Golden Tulip where you have the use of a day/evening room while you await your flight home. Enjoy dinner in a restaurant such as Habasha-2000, which offers superb traditional cuisine. In the late evening, transfer back to Bole airport for your overnight flight check-in.

Day 8 Arrive in the UK | Return to London Heathrow or Manchester with Ethiopian Airlines, arriving home in the early morning.





MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is a strong contender for offering the most distinctive wildlife holidays on the planet. The island separated from the African mainland some 165 million years ago and much of its flora and fauna has evolved in a unique way—in fact, an astonishing 80% of it is endemic.

For most visitors, the number one attraction is lemurs. There are more than 100 species and subspecies of lemur, some tiny and some much bigger than you might expect. The haunting call of the indri soaring through the trees is one of the iconic sounds of Madagascar. Other wildlife highlights include the cat-like fossa, the world's smallest and the world's largest chameleon, and more than 100 species of bird found nowhere else on Earth.

Almost as big a draw as the wildlife are the amazingly varied natural landscapes of the "Red Island". These landscapes range from dense tropical rainforests to rock formations eroded into fantastic shapes, and from razor-sharp limestone pinnacles called tsingy to beautifully strange "spiny bush".

Madagascar and its offshore islands are fringed with gorgeous sandy beaches and with reefs teeming with exotic fish. Here at Rainbow, we think the ultimate way to round off a holiday filled with forest hikes and cross-country tours is to head for the coast and spend a few days relaxing on an idyllic beach under a beautiful Malagasy sun.

“

With its weird and wonderful wildlife, Madagascar is sure to delight all types of travellers, from nature enthusiasts to families to honeymooning couples. Marvel at razor-sharp tsingy, keep an eagle eye out for lemurs and listen for the call of the indri.

”





Alternative Experiences

- Track critically endangered Perrier's black sifakas in Andrafiarena Andavakoera Protected Area
- Plant endangered baobabs in Menabe Antimena Protected Area
- Seek out "Forest Angels" (silky sifakas) in remote Marojejy National Park
- Visit the Veso boat builders at Belo Sur Mere, who build using designs learned from European pirates centuries ago
- Swim with whale sharks from October to December in the Nosy Be archipelago

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

Madagascar is a year-round destination but different places are at their best at different times of the year. Speak to a Rainbow specialist for more information. The rainy season falls from December to March, but the south-west is usually dry all year.

GETTING THERE

Air France flies to Antananarivo via Paris Charles de Gaulle from selected UK airports four times a week. Ethiopian Airlines operates flights from London Heathrow and from Manchester to Antananarivo and to Nosy Be. Air Mauritius and Kenya Airways operate flights from London to Antananarivo via Mauritius and Nairobi, respectively. There are daily SA Airlink flights between Johannesburg and Antananarivo.

GMT +2 hours

VISAS

Visitors to Madagascar require visas, which can be purchased on arrival.

HEALTH

Madagascar is a malarial area and precautions must be taken.

Ring-tailed lemurs

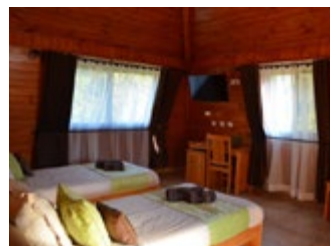


Indri

EASTERN RAINFORESTS

Madagascar's rainforests are among the densest in the world, with canopy levels lower on average than those elsewhere. The most accessible is Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, an easy three and a half hour drive from Antananarivo. The rainforests are home to a spectacular array of wildlife including 11 species of lemur, various chameleons and most of the island's rainforest-dependent endemic birds. A star attraction is the presence of habituated family groups of indri, whose haunting calls carry for up to 3km across the rainforest.

Ranomafana is a full day's drive south of Antananarivo. This national park protects 12 species of lemur, and spotting five or six species during a single day walk is not unheard of. The trails in Ranomafana are more challenging than those in Andasibe-Mantadia and require a reasonable level of fitness, but visitors will be rewarded not only with lemurs such as Milne-Edward's sifaka, but also with a fantastic array of bird species and lots of interesting reptiles and amphibians.



Thermal Hotel | Located just a 20-minute drive from the headquarters of Ranomafana National Park, the Thermal Hotel is a fantastic choice for exploring this part of Madagascar. The 21 rooms are split into three blocks and

comprise 12 doubles, seven twins and two singles, all with en-suite facilities. There is a lovely restaurant and an upstairs bar in the main block that gets very convivial in the evenings. The décor throughout feels almost Scandinavian, with spacious designs and lots of wood and cabin-style architecture.

“

The indri, or babakoto, is one of the largest species of lemur. It is revered by the Malagasy and plays an important part in their legends and folklore.

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Mantadia Lodge |

Opened in early 2018, this wonderful lodge offers views over the rainforest and sleek, modern design. There are 25 rooms, of which ten are twins and one is a family suite. Each features an en-suite bathroom and a private terrace where you can sit and enjoy the peace and quiet. The main building features a stylish restaurant with a convivial bar. The food is highly praised, as is the friendly and welcoming service. Take a dip in the hotel's pool, lined with palm trees, and book a massage if you would like to.



Vakona Forest Lodge |

Close to Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, Vakona has 28 en-suite bungalows spread around a garden, all overlooking a small lake. All the rooms can be configured to meet your needs, whether you need a double, twin, triple or family room for up to four people. There is a small swimming pool for guests to cool off in during the summer, and the hexagonal bar-restaurant serves drinks and simple but good food from a set menu.



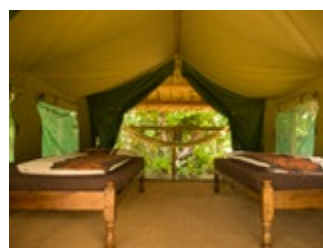
MASOALA & MAROJEJY NATIONAL PARKS

Marojejy National Park

Masoala is Madagascar's most extensive protected area and contains the largest remaining lowland rainforest in the country. Star attractions include the locally endemic red-ruffed lemur. Also found here are a large variety of rainforest-dwelling birds, along with reptiles and frogs galore. The park is reached by speedboat from Maroantsetra, which in turn is best reached by means of chartered flights.

Marojejy National Park is a magnificent and rugged rainforest that gives Masoala's rich biodiversity a good run for its money. It is the only place in Madagascar where you can experience lowland, mid-altitude montane and high-altitude rainforest, as well as Ericoid mountaintop scrub. Its flagship species include the critically endangered silky sifaka and the iconic helmet vanga with its huge blue beak. Trails are steep and challenging, so a good level of fitness is required.

A new, equally enjoyable alternative to Marojejy is the nearby Anjanaharibe Sud Reserve, where we like the basic but well-tended, recently opened Camp Indri.



Masoala Forest Lodge |

Set in a clearing behind a beach at the edge of Tampoilo Marine Park, this tented camp is extremely comfortable. With just seven tents, it is an intimate experience, accommodating a maximum of 12

people. Every tent has en-suite facilities and a private, shaded deck with a hammock to laze in after lunch. The restaurant sits in a traditional Malagasy thatched structure, overlooking the sea, and the meals are wholesome and fresh with lots of fish and seafood on offer. From the beach in front of the lodge, the snorkelling is particularly excellent.

“

Walking the forest is a wonderful way to get to know Madagascar. Your knowledgeable guide can point out things you might miss, from tiny chameleons to lemurs moving through the trees.

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ILE STE MARIE

Ile Ste Marie

Ile Ste Marie (Nosy Boraha) is a long, narrow tropical island off the east coast of Madagascar. A series of stunning palm-lined coves can be enjoyed by visitors to this lush, tropical holiday island. Experienced divers can enjoy mingling with tropical fish among the wrecks of sunken pirate ships—Ile Ste Marie has a rich pirate history dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

In Ambodifotatra, the main town, you'll find a couple of cafés and a bustling market. Smaller, sleepy villages are dotted around the whole island. The seafood on the island is exceptional, and you can sample it as you explore on foot or by bicycle. In season (July to September), Ile Ste Marie offers world-class whale watching, as humpback whales frequent the area to calve and mate.



Princesse Bora Lodge |

This superb hotel sits on the west coast of Ile Ste Marie. Comprised of 20 lovely, self-contained villas, here you'll find a dedicated and professional staff team and exceptional comfort. The villas are

built of natural materials and sit in a coconut palm grove beside the white-sand beach, with suspended double beds, living areas, en-suite bathrooms and a private, sea-facing veranda with hammocks. The hotel's restaurant is the best on the island with French, Creole and Malagasy influences clear to taste. The lodge features a decked infinity pool and a wooden pontoon on the lagoon, along with a water sports centre.



Perrier's black sifaka

NORTHERN RESERVES

Just 30 minutes' drive from Diego Suarez is the recently established Montagne des Français Reserve. Follow a superb walking trail to Baobab Valley, where two of northern Madagascar's three endemic baobab species thrive. The verdant Montagne d'Ambre National Park is a humid forest enclave amid an otherwise dry landscape. This rewarding park has more than 30km of trails, many of which are flat and easy to explore. Resident wildlife includes well-habituated crowned and Sanford's lemurs. Night walks are exceptionally rewarding

in spring and summer. Ankarana National Park rises abruptly from savannah in the north western region. It is one of the most remarkable places in an already unusual country, a natural limestone fortress topped with fields of razor-sharp pinnacles known as tsingy. Andrafiarena Andavakoera is a recently established protected area in a remote forest corridor between Ankarana and Analamerana. Its star attraction is the critically endangered Perrier's black sifaka.



△ Nature Lodge | Just 15 minutes' drive from Montagne d'Ambre National Park, Nature Lodge is set on a plateau and offers panoramic views over the Bay of Antsiranana. The 12 thatched chalets have both a double and

single bed, en-suite facilities and a private veranda from which to drink in the spectacular views. The airy restaurant serves excellent food based on local products like coconut, fish and other seafood, and opens on to a wide terrace where you can sip sundowners from the bar in total comfort.



△ Ankarana Lodge | This comfortable lodge is owner run and benefits from its proprietors' prodigious knowledge of the region. There are eight detached bungalows with both front and back terraces, and a double and single bed. In

addition, there are four rooms: three doubles and one family room that can sleep up to four. The swimming pool is sparkling, and offers a welcome respite from the hot weather. The lodge sits in 15 hectares of land so there is plenty of space to walk and watch out for wildlife.



△ Black Lemur Camp | Managed by NGO FANAMBY, this simple but comfortable camp opened in 2016 and lies about four hours' drive south of Diego Suarez. Open from May to November, the camp has ten spacious chalets with

en-suite bathrooms and queen-sized beds. The main area features a restaurant, bar and lounge area with a large elevated deck. Collapse on comfy white sofas and take in the views of the forest. The staff are all from nearby villages and are keen to ensure guests feel well looked after.



△ Iharana Bush Camp | With a wonderful melding of Malagasy and African styling, this camp has unique décor and offers a lovely base from which to explore Ankarana National Park. There are 18 bungalows in the grounds, all with

en-suite facilities. Five have lake and tsingy views with their own private terrace and one has a partial view with a terrace. The remaining bungalows are tucked away in the gardens. There is a small swimming pool and a fantastic viewing platform.



"Dancing" Verreaux's sifaka

THE SOUTH WEST

Four hours' drive inland from Tulear, Isalo National Park protects 815km² of sandstone massif, which has been said to sometimes remind visitors of Arizona on the surface. Walking and horse riding enthusiasts love this massif, where resident wildlife includes the iconic, energetic ring-tailed lemurs and Verreaux's sifakas. Deep in the gorges, clear rock pools and waterfalls offer welcome respite from the intense tropical heat.



Le Relais de la Reine |

Sitting on 40 hectares of private land and commanding fantastic panoramas, this hotel is full of character and is a great base for excursions to Isalo. It boasts a pool, tennis court, equestrian centre,

private airfield, and 4x4 vehicle hire. The design is modern but carefully planned to fit in with the surrounding environment, full of warmth and charm. The grounds are beautifully manicured, and the food features exciting flavours and beautiful presentation.

North of Tulear lies Ifaty Beach. Most visitors come here to explore the community-protected "spiny bush" which is at its most aesthetically appealing here. "Bottle" baobabs, spiky octopus trees and an assortment of other strange bloated or thorny drought-resistant plants and trees create an extraordinary spectacle. Seek out some highly localised birds and reptiles and take some time to snorkel on the barrier reef offshore.



Le Paradisier Eco-Lodge |

This relaxed seaside hotel makes a great stop after or before travelling the RN7 overland route, or as a base for guests visiting Ifaty-Mangily. Its 20 rooms are set in sea-facing

bungalows, all en-suite with space for four people and beautiful big windows to take advantage of the views over the Mozambique Channel. The restaurant is light and very airy, offering both indoor and outdoor seating depending on the weather and your preference. The swimming pool is also beautiful, with superb views over the channel.



© Madagascar Classic Camping

THE SOUTH EAST

To the west of Fort Dauphin, southern Madagascar's main port, the climate is semi-arid and features tracts of remarkable "spiny bush". Berenty Private Reserve is home to large, well-habituated populations of the famous ring-tailed lemur and "dancing" Verreaux's sifaka, as well as many dry-country birds and reptiles. Not far from Berenty, the exclusive Mandrare River Tented Camp offers superb hospitality and the chance to explore Ifotaka

Community Forest. North east of Fort Dauphin lies Manafiafy, a small fishing village. Its sweeping, sandy beaches are bordered by one of the last remaining stands of east coast littoral forest in Madagascar. Here rare lemurs, chameleons and birds find sanctuary, and may be spotted as you follow the winding trails among the trees.



▲ Mandrare River Camp |

In the shade of tamarind trees on a bank of the Mandrare River lies Mandrare River Camp, Madagascar's first luxury tented camp. The seven rooms feature comfortable four-poster beds, attractive

handmade wooden furnishings and en-suite bathrooms. Each also boasts a private veranda where you can sit and watch the wildlife go by. Food is served in the main tent and is truly exceptional, inventive and exquisitely tasty. The camp donates a portion of every booking to local projects, and employs many staff from nearby villages.



▲ Manafiafy Beach and Rainforest Lodge |

This small, luxury lodge fronts straight on to a protected, forest-fringed beach. With just six luxury, spacious thatched bungalows, the atmosphere is secluded and

intimate. The bungalows were built by local craftsmen using natural materials, and all have en-suite bathrooms. The private decks are close to the beach with outside showers, sunbeds and hammocks. The food is incredibly fresh and most of it is locally produced, to delicious effect. The owner places heavy emphasis on supporting local community projects and renewable energy, as well as planting many trees.



NOSY BE ARCHIPELAGO

Madagascar's north west coast is home to some of the country's finest beaches. The sweet-scented island of Nosy Be is most developed, with some sandy beaches, Sakalava villages and fragments of Sambirano forest still inhabited by black lemurs and colourful panther chameleons. Exploring the island by quad bike or on horseback gives you access to some lovely locations, including scenic crater lakes and waterfalls.

Nosy Komba is the second largest island in the archipelago. A volcanic island, the terrain is undulating and dominated by hills

with a few sheltered, sandy coves. A habituated population of black lemur is found in the secondary Sambirano forest. Nosy Tanikely Marine Reserve is an uninhabited island often visited in combination with Nosy Komba. Its beautiful white-sand beaches are bordered by vibrant coral reefs. Most visitors see green turtles and dolphins while snorkelling here. In season (October to December) we can arrange well-managed excursions to swim with whale sharks.



△ Tsara Komba | A stylish hideaway on the beautiful island of Nosy Komba, this hotel sits in lush and beautiful tropical gardens. The eight stylish bungalows keep the atmosphere private and intimate, all built from traditional materials and

featuring king-size four-poster beds, en-suites and large verandas that look out over the turquoise waters. The bar is an ideal spot from which to watch the sun set over the mountains whilst sipping a cocktail, and the restaurant serves a variety of dishes prepared from fresh, local ingredients enhanced by Malagasy spices and flavours.



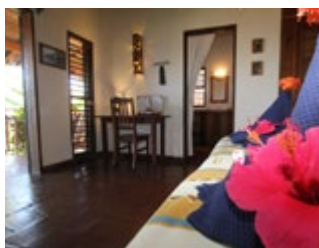
△ Eden Lodge | This wonderful lodge combines exotic wildlife, excellent snorkelling and a deserted sandy beach with magnificent baobabs—the "best of Madagascar". Eight stylish safari-style tents sit under

traditional Malagasy thatched roofs, all with four-poster beds, en-suite bathrooms and a terrace overlooking the gardens. The food is superb, with a menu that rotates every two weeks to ensure you have plenty of delicious variety. There is a small activity centre on the beach with kayaks and a Hobie Cat, and the swimming and snorkelling is very easy and rewarding.



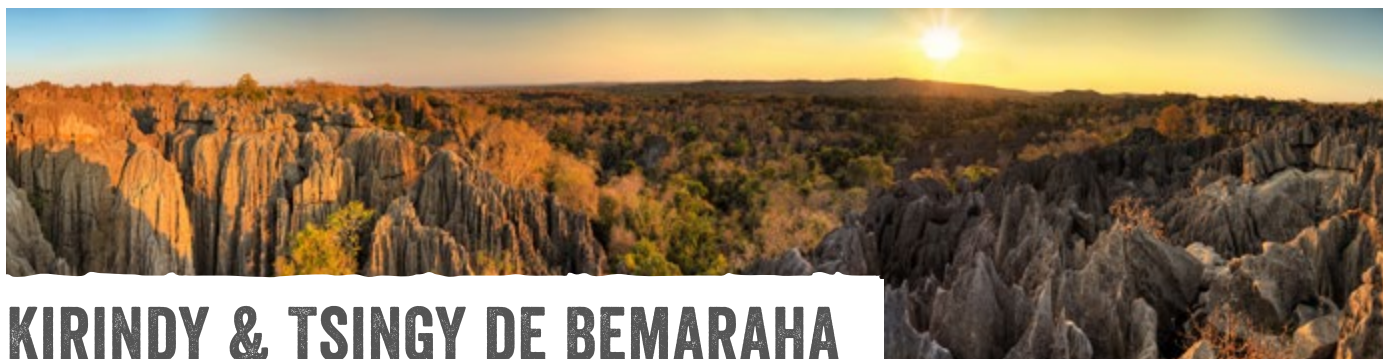
△ Constance Lodge Tsarabanjina | On the stunning private island of Nosy Tsarabanjina sits Constance Lodge Tsarabanjina, comprising 25 palm-thatched villas located just above one of the two white-sand beaches enjoying an

uninterrupted view out to sea. All villas have en-suite facilities and a private veranda with deck chairs, coffee table and sun loungers. The food in the restaurant is delicious, and the bar has the unique touch of a sand floor. Here you can kick back and admire the wonderful sunsets.



△ Sakatia Lodge | Sit on the southern side of the island of Nosy Sakatia, this popular lodge is a great favourite with divers and offers peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle of Nosy Be. Nine bungalows and a beachfront villa

make up the accommodation, all simply designed with en-suite bathrooms and private terraces. Meals are served in the open-air restaurant, adjacent to the bar area. The food is organic, fresh, locally sourced, and delicious. One of the lodge's main attractions is the superb dive centre, run by brilliant instructor Jacques.



KIRINDY & TSINGY DE BEMARAHA

Kirindy is a seasonally dry forest in the Menabe Antimena Protected Area, which is famed for its majestic baobabs, including the largest species of all: Granddier's baobab. Holding a world record for primate density, Kirindy protects the tiniest primate of all, Madame Berthe's mouse lemur. Other iconic inhabitants include the elusive fossa and endangered giant jumping rat.



Le Soleil des Tsingy | This is the perfect base from which to explore Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park. The rooms are set in 17 comfortable, elegantly furnished bungalows with en-suite bathrooms, all

spacious and neat. There is an infinity pool in which guests can escape the heat and enjoy stunning views over the forest valley, and the excellent restaurant offers great food throughout the day. Breakfast is a particular highlight, where you can enjoy freshly baked bread or croissants on the terrace while enjoying the view of the tropical deciduous dry forest.

Eight hours drive north of Kirindy along poor roads lies Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is Madagascar's second largest protected area, and like the other tsingy plateaus it is a formidable limestone fortress bisected by canyons in which pockets of dry deciduous forest harbour rare wildlife such as Von der Decken's sifaka. Half of Madagascar's bat species reside in its extensive cave system.



Relais du Kirindy | Opened in 2017, Relais du Kirindy is set adjacent to a Sekalava-Menabe village. The 20 en-suite bungalows are simply decorated and neat, made from wood and other natural materials.

At the front of each one sits a private deck with very comfortable chairs on which to relax. The open-air restaurant is spacious and serves good food with both Malagasy and European influences. The swimming pool offers a welcome respite from the heat during the summer months. A lovely touch is the readily-available packed breakfasts for early-morning forest walks.



ANKARAFANTSIKA & ANJAJAVY

Ankarafantsika National Park is a perennial highlight for wildlife enthusiasts. Wildlife viewing is effortless from the moment you enter the park. Expect to see troops of endangered Coquerel's sifaka, common brown lemurs and the rare, crepuscular mongoose lemur, along with many nocturnal lemurs. Ankarafantsika also harbours many reptiles including the rhinoceros chameleon and collared iguanid lizard, along with multiple species of forest-dependent birds.



Anjavy Le Lodge | On a stretch of remote and incredibly beautiful coast lies Anjavy Le Lodge, sitting right beside the beach. The 24 two-storey villas are built of local rosewood and are roofed with satrana leaves, all with two bedrooms and French windows that open out on to a large sea-facing veranda furnished with armchairs and a hammock. In the main lodge you'll find a comfortable lounge, bar, billiards table, TV room and main restaurant. Many meals are taken outside on the decked area that runs the length of the main building. There is also a pool, a second beach, and a charming boutique.

Anjavy is one of Madagascar's finest seaside hotels, located on a remote peninsula covered in dense, seasonally dry forest that includes numerous baobabs. Aside from taking advantage of the hotel's luxurious facilities and seven beaches, guests can enjoy rewarding guided day and night walks to seek out rare wildlife, including habituated lemurs which regularly enter the gardens.



Parson's chameleon, Andasibe

WILDLIFE OF MADAGASCAR

On this private, guided tour you will get to explore three of the most prominent wildlife hotspots in Madagascar: Andasibe-Mantadia National Park in the eastern rainforests, Kirindy Forest in the critically endangered western tropical deciduous forests and the famed Berenty Private Reserve in the arid southern sub-desert zone or "Androy".

Day 1 Fly to Antananarivo | Arrive into Antananarivo on your Air France flight via Paris CDG, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | After breakfast, you will be collected from your hotel to make the roughly three-hour drive by private 4x4 to Andasibe-Mantadia, where you will be taken for an introductory guided rainforest walk. After dark, enjoy a guided night walk.

Day 3 Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | Keep an eye out for indri on your morning guided walk, and then after lunch choose between a visit to the astonishing tree nurseries of Association Mitsinjo or to Lemur Island. In the evening perhaps take another night walk and watch out for eastern woolly lemur, Goodman's mouse lemur, and so much more.

Day 4 Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | Today you could visit the amazing 100km² of primary forest in Mantadia National Park with your guides, where you may spot some of the rare wildlife that is not often found in Andasibe. Alternatively, you could strike out to explore more of Andasibe.

Day 5 Andasibe-Mantadia to Antananarivo | This morning either enjoy another guided rainforest walk in Andasibe or revisit Mantadia National Park in the hopes of seeing some rare birds including the short-legged ground-roller. Mid-afternoon, you will be driven back to Antananarivo for an overnight stay.

Day 6 Antananarivo to Kirindy Forest | Fly to Morondava on the west coast, where your guide and driver will meet you and transfer you two hours north to Kirindy Forest. Arrive in Kirindy, one of Madagascar's three best—albeit extremely threatened—wildlife hotspots. Night walks here are particularly superb.

Day 7 Kirindy Forest | You will be taken for an early morning and afternoon guided forest walk to explore the easy trails in Kirindy Forest, where wildlife viewing is generally excellent. Guided day and night walks in the (very) dry deciduous forests of Kirindy and Marofandilia tend to deliver a good mix of lemurs, great birds and diverse reptiles.

Day 8 Kirindy Forest to Morondava | The morning is free to explore more of the forest with your guide. In the afternoon, transfer back to Morondava with a stop at stunning "Baobab Alley", a group of Grandidier's baobabs. If you wish, you can plant an endemic baobab at the NGO FANAMBY's habitat restoration project site.

Day 9 Morondava to Antananarivo | Your guide and driver can take you sightseeing in Morondava, time allowing, if you want to gain an insight into Menabe-Sakalava culture. Later board your plane for the flight back to Antananarivo, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 10 Antananarivo to Berenty Private Reserve | Fly to Fort Dauphin on the far south coast of Madagascar, where you will be met and driven to the celebrated Berenty Private Reserve. More than 40 years of hard work by renowned primatologist Lady Alison Jolly, particularly

regarding lemurs, have propelled the reserve to international fame.

Day 11 Berenty Private Reserve | Berenty is set in spiny forest and is the best place in Madagascar to see the famous ring-tailed lemurs as well as the "dancing" Verreaux's sifaka. Take morning, afternoon and night walks along the park's broad trails to look for lemurs (including the recently-discovered red-and-grey mouse lemur) and tenrec, among other exciting wildlife.

Day 12 Berenty Private Reserve | Spend more time exploring Berenty either with your guides or independently. Aside from its iconic lemurs, you should see the large roost of Madagascar flying foxes or fruit bats and endemic birds. There is also an interesting museum and some fascinating dry country flora such as endemic moringa trees.

Day 13 Berenty Private Reserve to Antananarivo | Return to Fort Dauphin airport for a flight to Antananarivo, where you will be met and taken to see the city highlights, with a day room at the hotel. In the evening transfer back to the airport to check in for your late-night flight back to Paris CDG.

Day 14 Fly to the UK | Your flight home departs in the early hours of the morning. Connect with your early afternoon flight back to the UK from Paris CDG airport.



Giant coua

MADAGASCAR WILDLIFE DISCOVERY

On our popular small group tour you will see many species of lemurs, endemic birds, reptiles such as chameleons, and an unsurpassed array of plants, from baobabs to orchids, in a diverse range of habitats and protected areas. This tour is led by highly experienced and internationally praised Malagasy wildlife expert guides, and runs multiple times a year.

SMALL GROUP TOUR

Day 1 Fly to Antananarivo | Arrive into Antananarivo on your flight via Paris CDG, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 Antananarivo to Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | After breakfast, you will be briefed and then collected from your hotel to make the roughly three-hour drive by private 4x4 to Andasibe-Mantadia, Madagascar's top "must-see" protected rainforest site, where you will be taken for an introductory guided rainforest walk. After dark, enjoy a guided night walk.

Day 3 Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | Keep an eye out for indri on your morning guided walk, and after lunch visit the sanctuary of Lemur Island. There is an optional afternoon walk and then after dark another night walk. Watch out for nocturnal lemurs, chameleons and tree frogs.

Day 4 Andasibe-Mantadia National Park | This morning visit the amazing 100km² of primary forest in Mantadia National Park with your guides, where you may spot some of the rare wildlife that is not often found in Andasibe. The landscape here is particularly breathtaking.

Day 5 Andasibe-Mantadia to Antananarivo | Take a final rainforest walk and then head to NGO Association Mitsinjo, a project supported by Money for Madagascar, where you will have the chance to plant an endangered endemic tree. Mid-afternoon, you will be driven back to Antananarivo for an overnight stay.

Day 6 Antananarivo to Ifaty | Fly to Tulear on the arid south west coast, where you will be taken to the fascinating Museum Cetadron (if it is open) containing rare tribal artefacts. You will then be driven the short

distance to Ifaty. Towards dusk, you can enjoy sundowners under a massive baobab at Reniala Centre followed by a night walk.

Day 7 Ifaty Spiny Bush | It's an early start this morning to visit Parc Mosa, an area of spiny bush. Spiny bush was dubbed "Nature's Botanical Lunatic Asylum" by travel writer Dervla Murphy. Keep an eye out for highly localised endemic birds and rare, range-restricted reptiles such as the Madagascar radiated tortoise.

Day 8 Ifaty to Zombitse Forest National Park to Isalo National Park | Travel back to Tulear, stopping en-route at the Arboretum de Antsokay. From Tulear, continue inland to Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park, a highly rewarding wildlife hotspot. After a guided walk, move on to Madagascar's most-visited national park, the sandstone massif of Isalo.

Day 9 Isalo National Park | With your guides, explore one of the circuits of Isalo National Park on foot. These trails pass incredible "ruiniforme" sandstone formations with pockets of verdant streamside vegetation. Look out for ring-tailed lemurs, Verreaux's sifaka, and other incredible endemic fauna.

Day 10 Isalo to Anja to Ambalavao | Today is a six- to seven-hour drive to reach spectacular terrain dominated by granite domes that marks the entrance to the southern Highlands. Stop at the well-loved Anja Parc near Ambalavao; a community-managed protected area which is home to a thriving population of ring-tailed lemur.

Day 11 Ambalavao to Ranomafana National Park | First visit the Soalandy silkworks project (if it is open) and then make the three- to four-hour

drive to popular Ranomafana National Park; a huge protected area where seeing five species of lemur in a day walk is not uncommon. Enjoy an introductory walk and watch out for rare bird species and the sheer beauty of this rainforest.

Days 12-13 Ranomafana National Park | Explore this amazing rainforest over two days with your guides. In Ranomafana you may see the striking Milne-Edward's sifaka, the endangered golden bamboo lemur, plentiful bird life and some fascinating reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Day 14 Ranomafana to Antsirabe | After breakfast, set off on the scenic northward journey towards Antsirabe. You'll pass through Betsileo and Merina territory, where you can see people cultivating rice and selling food on the roadside. In Antsirabe, see the numerous colourful rickshaws and enjoy exploring some craft stalls.

Day 15 Antsirabe to Antananarivo | Depart Antsirabe through scenic Highlands country back to Antananarivo and visit some of the capital's highlights with your guide. After a farewell dinner, those who are flying back to the UK with Air France will be transferred to Antananarivo airport to check in for their Air France flight departing after midnight.

Day 16 Fly to the UK | Your flight home departs in the early hours of the morning. Connect with your early afternoon flight back to the UK from Paris CDG airport.



RÉUNION

With one of the world's most active volcanoes, the highest mountain in the Indian Ocean, vast swathes of lush primeval forest and sweeping, golden beaches, Réunion is an island of dramatic contrasts and rugged natural beauty. Here you'll find all the ingredients for an exhilarating outdoor holiday.

At the core of the island you'll find the three cirques—Salazie, Cilaos and Mafate. Once the craters of long-dormant volcanoes, these cirques are now spectacularly scenic, with peaks and gorges, waterfalls and thermal springs, remote hamlets and picturesque villages. At the centre of the cirques you'll find 3,069m Piton de Neiges, the highest mountain in the Indian Ocean. The cirques offer sensational walking routes and drives, with incredible vistas along the way.

Nature enthusiasts will fall in love with the luxurious interior mountain forest of Bébou-Bélouve, and birders will be astounded by the sheer number of Réunion's endemic bird species you can see in a single hike. Piton de

la Fournaise can also be reached from the high central plains. This is one of the four most active volcanoes in the world, with more than 170 recorded eruptions since the 17th century.

Réunion's coast is rugged in the south east, with black pebble beaches and black volcanic cliffs. By contrast, the west coast is generally dry, with golden sandy beaches and a number of small, relaxed coastal towns with cafés, bars and restaurants aplenty.

“
A wonderful mix of cultures—French, Indian, African, and Muslim—have all intertwined here. The resulting melange has produced friendly people and superb food, which combine with spectacular natural beauty and wonderful beaches to make Réunion truly special.
”





Alternative Experiences

- Spot whales from the air during a helicopter ride
- Attend Anime Picnique, a riverside picnic lunch with traditional Creole dishes and music
- Visit the rum distilleries in St Andre or St Pierre and try making rum arrangé yourself
- Sample the street food and visit St Paul's Market
- Trek or helicopter to the remote forests around Mafate

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

The dry season is May to October and temperatures stay around 20–25°C. November to March is more humid, with most rain in January and February. Please be aware that cyclones can occur in January and February.

GETTING THERE

Air France operates a daily overnight service to Réunion via Paris. Air Austral flies daily from Paris. Air Mauritius flies to Réunion four times a week via Mauritius.

GMT

+4 hours

VISAS

As Réunion is a French department there is currently no visa requirement for UK citizens.

HEALTH

There are no health requirements for Réunion.

Réunion



CIRQUES & VOLCANOES

The centre of Réunion is dominated by three cirques; natural amphitheatres that are the craters of long-dormant volcanoes. The Cirque de Cilaos is the largest of the three, with a beauty akin to the Alps in summer. The Cirque de Mafate is so wild and rugged the only access is on foot. A helicopter trip over the Cirque from St Gilles is a quicker way to see it. Salazie is the lushest of the three, bursting with greenery.



 **Relais des Cimes** | Set in a beautifully-converted 19th-century Creole building in the pretty village of Hell-Bourg, Relais des Cimes is a fantastic hideaway. Its 29 rooms are comfortable, with en-suite

bathrooms, TVs and a telephone. The food is fantastic, with a hearty and varied breakfast that's just right to set you up for exploring the nearby Cirque de Salazie, and the restaurant serves delicious regional specialities in the evening. From the hotel it's easy to head out to go hiking or climbing, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Salazie is close by.

The Piton de la Fournaise volcano is Réunion's main attraction. It is still active and erupts annually. The whole area around the central crater is a lunar landscape of red-brown and black cinder and ash, devoid of vegetation. The 13km hike to the volcano rim is relatively easy but you must go prepared. Alternatively, the round trip walk to the smaller Formica Lion is considerably shorter; about 90 minutes.



 **Le Vieux Cep** | This comfortable, family-run hotel has 45 rooms for you to choose from. All have en-suite bathrooms, and many have a balcony or terrace for you to take full advantage of the hotel's spectacular

views of the cirque that surrounds Cilaos. The staff are attentive and friendly and there is a Jacuzzi, sauna, massage room, games room, and mountain bikes available for hire. The restaurant serves a varied menu of both Creole and European dishes; all of which is delicious. The Creole cuisine in particular deserves a mention, as it features specialities local just to Cilaos.



BEACHES

Réunion Island offers some 22km of exceptionally well-preserved lagoons. The clear waters mean that the visibility is great for spotting shoals of multi-coloured fish, with which you can enjoy close encounters during an organised snorkelling trip. For a relaxing beach holiday, choose the west coast of the island with its sandy beaches, coral reefs, cafés, and restaurants. St Gilles-les-Bains is the island's chief resort, with several


good Four-star hotels beside the beach, natural pools and chic nightlife. St Leu is one of the world's most desirable surfing spots, with a range of accommodation, a good sandy beach, and the famous geyser. The east coast has a coastline of black volcanic cliffs, and black pebble beaches; the remains of lava flows stopped by the sea.



 **LUX* Saint Gilles** | Formerly LUX* Ile de la Réunion, this five-star hotel is situated just 3km outside of St Gilles, Réunion's most popular beach resort. It is set in seven

hectares of tropical garden overlooking the lagoon, and it stands along 600m of beach. The 174 rooms are grouped in 23 Creole-inspired villas, all with private balconies or terraces. There are plenty of options for families, and the hotel also features a children's pool along with its large main pool. There are lots of activities on offer, from aqua-gym sessions to kayak hire so you can explore the lagoon.



 **Blue Margouillat** | This exclusive Relais & Châteaux property has just 12 luxurious bedrooms and two Creole-style suites, all beautifully designed in a colonial

style with an emphasis on comfort, beauty, calm and bliss. The service is exquisite at every level. Each room features a terrace or balcony overlooking the Bay of Saint Leu and the Indian Ocean with panoramic views. The restaurant serves superb, gastronomic food and has a wonderful and extensive wine list. Take advantage of the elegant spa and the lovely outdoor pool, which boasts fantastic views.

RÉUNION SELF-DRIVE

Cirque de Cilaos

Combine Réunion's rugged, volcanic splendour with its beachy beauty on this 16-day itinerary. Explore the active volcano of Piton de la Fournaise along with the breathtaking scenery and picturesque mountain towns in the three Cirques, then head to the coast for lazy days on the beach. With your own rental car, this itinerary is completely flexible, so you can discover Réunion at your own pace.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart the UK | Depart on your overnight flight from the UK to Réunion via Paris.

Day 2 Airport to Hell-Bourg | Upon arrival, collect your hire car and head east through lush fields of sugar cane to Hell-Bourg, which thoroughly deserves its accolade as one of the most beautiful villages in France. This is the main settlement of the lovely Cirque de Salazie, where you will spend the next two nights.

Day 3 Cirque de Salazie | Spend the day exploring this superb natural amphitheatre, with its 100 plunging waterfalls and winding cliffs and gorges. Walk to the hot springs, Les Sources Pétrifiantes, or drive to the outstanding viewpoint at Le Point du Jour. On offer there's also canyoning, climbing, and more.

Day 4 Cirque de Salazie to Bébou Forest | Drive south and cross the high plains to reach the volcano. Nature enthusiasts will love Bébou Forest, with its carpet of white lilies. Beneath the canopy the world is dominated by enormous, prehistoric-looking tree ferns. Stop in Bourg Murat to visit the Volcano Centre and then carry on to your hotel for the night: Les Géraniums.

Day 5 Piton de la Fournaise to St Pierre | Wonder at the stunning volcano, Piton de la Fournaise, that has erupted several times in the last few decades. Move on to the village of St Philippe on the tropical south east coast. A little further towards Tremblet you'll find stunning frozen lava flows from recent eruptions. Spend two nights at Villa Belle, near St Pierre.

Day 6 St Pierre | Make the very short journey from your hotel to charming St Pierre, with its fishing post, 19th-century dry dock and craft market. Later, walk to La Rivière Langevin to see

the amazing waterfalls, or do the botanical ramble at Mare-Longue and the Garden of Perfume and Spices.

Day 7 St Pierre to Cirque de Cilaos | Drive west along the coastal highway then head inland to the mountain town of Cilaos, where you'll spend two nights at the Hotel Tsilaosa. The drive here is stunning, with scenic views of the island's high mountains and steep gorges.

Day 8 Cirque de Cilaos | Take advantage of the cirque's wonderful hiking trails up into the mountain forests and among the ravines, or try a gentler walk. Beautiful drives to La Roche Merveilleuse and the hamlet of Ilet a Cordes are also on offer, as is the chance to relax in the Irinée Accot health spa. There is also canyoning, mountain biking, and more. Speak to a Rainbow specialist to find out more.

Day 9 Cirque de Cilaos to Hermitage-les-Bains | Wind your way back down to the coastal highway and drive to Hermitage-les-Bains to spend the next seven nights at the refurbished five-star LUX* Saint Gilles.

Days 10-15 Hermitage-les-Bains | Spend your days on the beach, which is protected by a coral reef and offers great snorkelling, or by the largest pool on the island. Choose from the four restaurants and sign up for any activities you like, including biking, surfing, golf, and paragliding. There are also plenty of day trips you can take, such as a drive to Le Maito on the rim of the Cirque de Mafate.

Day 16 Fly to the UK | Drive to the airport to return your hire car and check in for your return flight via Paris.





SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE

Sitting on the Equator, 225km west of Gabon, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe is one of the smallest countries in Africa. The islands are a paradise of unexplored jungles, crystal clear waters, palm-fringed beaches and Portuguese-Creole cuisine. They also support some rare, small forest-dependent wildlife. In fact, the island of Príncipe has been listed a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve thanks to its unusual biodiversity.

A São Tomé and Príncipe holiday offers an exceptional combination of nature, beach and delicious food. The islands are thickly forested, housing fascinating birdlife; the 28 endemic species include some of the world's rarest and most endangered, such as the dwarf olive ibis the São Tomé fiscal and the São Tomé grosbeak.

Discovered by the Portuguese in the 1470s, the islands were for many centuries given over to plantations

growing sugar, coffee and cacao using slaves and contract workers from Cape Verde, Angola and Mozambique. These became the forefathers of today's São Toméans, while the colonists left a legacy of bandstands, churches and wide, tree-lined avenidas.

Rainbow recommends staying in elegant boutique hotel Omali Lodge on São Tomé, packed with tropical charm. On Príncipe, we love Bom bom Island Resort, featuring 19 luxurious bungalows tucked away by the beach in lush tropical forest.

“

One of Africa's least-visited countries, São Tomé and Príncipe comprises two tropical islands floating in the gulf of Guinea and blends natural wonders with gripping history.

”





Alternative Experiences

- Visit a home-grown pineapple farm on Príncipe
- Stand on the equator line on Ilhéu das Rolas; a 30-minute boat ride from São Tomé
- See African grey parrots and many of the other 27 endemic bird species on Parrot Mountain
- Visit the unique Amelia Lagoon; a crater filled with water and covered in a thick layer of earth and moss that you can walk on
- Keep an eye out for turtles and whales in the azure waters

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

The islands have a tropical climate that is hot and humid year-round. The rainy season is between October and May, and April and November are traditionally the wettest months. Peak season is July to August and December to January, so we recommend travelling in May or October.

GETTING THERE

Fly to Lisbon and then on to São Tomé with Air Portugal.

GMT

+0 hours

VISAS

British citizens staying for 15 days or longer require a visa.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations for São Tomé and Príncipe. The islands are malarial and malaria prophylactics are required.

For more information on São Tomé and Príncipe, please visit our website www.rainbowtours.co.uk or ring our travel specialists on 020 7666 1250.

São Tomé



ST HELENA

The beautiful volcanic island of St Helena sits proudly in the South Atlantic Ocean, 1,200 miles off the west coast of Africa. Once accessible only by a five-day ride on the mail boat, St Helena is now opening up thanks to a new airport and direct flights from South Africa. Without a doubt, this is one of the most remote holiday destinations in the world. With stunning volcanic landscapes, forested mountains descending to subtropical interiors and craggy coastlines, along with superb biodiversity, this is a destination with huge potential for adventure and off-the-beaten-track travel experiences.

Home to the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte and his house in exile, as well as the oldest terrestrial living animal in the world (a Seychelles giant tortoise called Jonathan), and its own endemic species of bird, the St Helena plover or wirebird, St Helena's isolation has curated its fascinating history and fostered a truly unique place.

Visitors here can explore the island by 4x4, hike to the tip of verdant peaks and swim with whale sharks just offshore as they migrate through the surrounding waters from January to March.

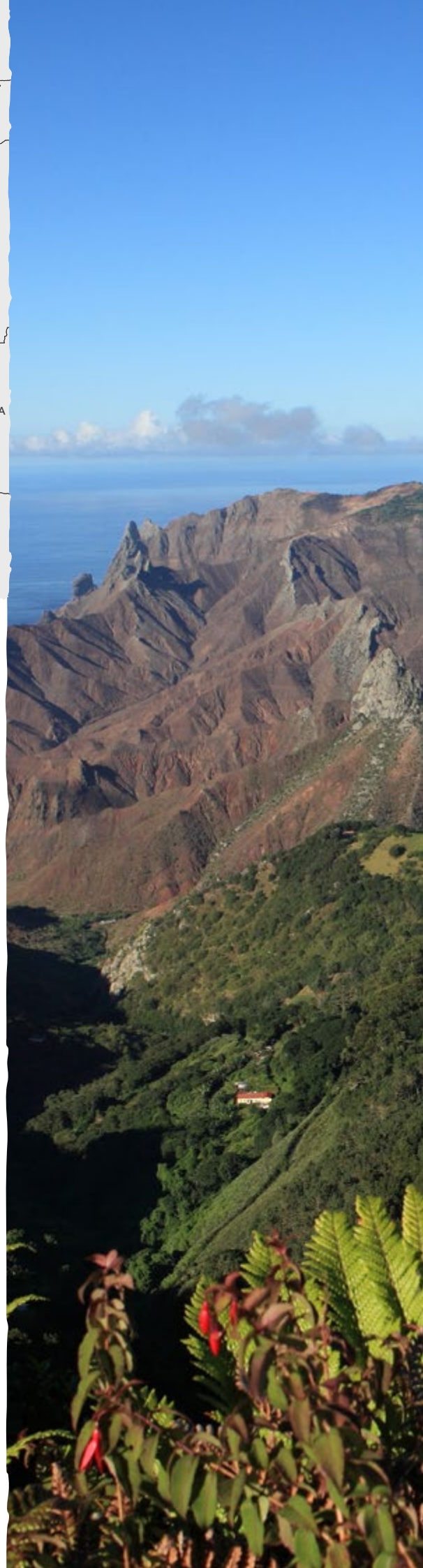
Up until recently, weekly flights year-round have meant that visitors must spend at least a week on the island. With twice-weekly flights now introduced during the summer months, the increased flight frequency can give you more flexibility with your travel dates.

Our favourite hotel on the island is the Mantis St Helena; a stylish and comfortable retreat in Jamestown with oodles of old-world charm.

“

Beautiful, remote, and welcoming, this is an incredible adventure destination.

”





Alternative Experiences

- Visit the world's oldest living animal, Jonathan the Tortoise, in the grounds of Plantation House
- Eat dinner with a local family and learn about life in the South Atlantic
- Hike in the shadow of towering volcanic peaks
- Strike out in search of St Helena's last surviving endemic bird species, the St Helena wirebird
- Head to Longwood House to learn about the life and exile of Napoleon Bonaparte

TRAVEL Information

WHEN TO GO

St Helena is a year-round destination. Summer is from December to March and winter falls from May to August. Travel between January and March for the arrival of the whale sharks.

GETTING THERE

South African Express now flies to St Helena from Johannesburg. In peak season (December to March) midweek flights are also on offer.

GMT

+0 hours

VISAS

British citizens are required to present an entry permit and proof of medical insurance upon arrival. Entry permits cost £20 per person.

HEALTH

There are no compulsory vaccinations required to enter St Helena.

For more information on St Helena, please visit our website www.rainbowtours.co.uk or ring our travel specialists on 020 7666 1250.

St Helena

POPULAR



MADAGASCAR & MAURITIUS

If anywhere can rival Madagascar's claim to the best beaches in the world, it's Mauritius. Pristine stretches of sand wrap around almost the whole island and it's easy to find your own spot in the sun away from the crowds. Explore Madagascar's fascinating

natural wonders and meet its weird and wonderful wildlife, then fly across the Indian Ocean to spend a few days recuperating from the sometimes strenuous nature of Madagascar trips on Mauritius' miles of white sand under a sensuous sun.

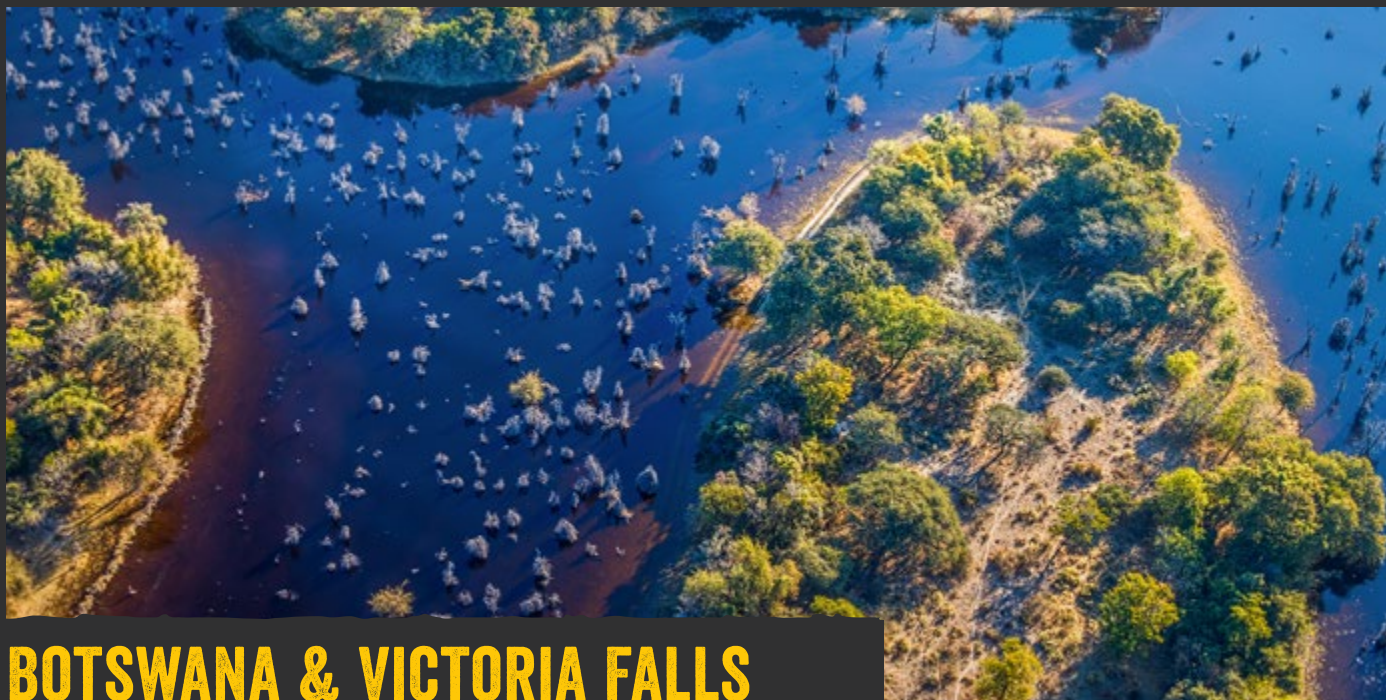


SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA

South Africa offers a wonderful variety of "classic" safari experiences where you can seek out the Big Five and drive winding roads, while Namibia is a more "off-the-beaten-track" destination with a stark natural beauty that is completely unique in many places. With flights readily available between

Johannesburg and Windhoek, it's never been easier to combine these two fascinating countries. Wonder at the Lowveld and the Three Rondavels in South Africa, then have your breath taken away by the Sossusvlei Dunes and Skeleton Coast in Namibia.

COMBINATIONS



BOTSWANA & VICTORIA FALLS

With the magnificent Victoria Falls less than 60 miles from Botswana's Chobe National Park, it would be imprudent not to cross the Zambian border to get up close with one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. Known by local tribes as "the Smoke

that Thunders", more than five hundred million cubic metres of water per minute can plummet over the 2km edge of this giant feat of nature, making it one of the world's largest waterfalls — and one of Africa's most impressive sights.



SOUTH AFRICA & VICTORIA FALLS

South Africa and its northerly neighbour, Zimbabwe, are a popular choice for an Africa combination and one of the best ways to combine the two is by travelling on the stylish Rovos Rail. Start your journey in Johannesburg, and travel through picturesque South Africa and Botswana, crossing the Tropic

of Capricorn and finally entering Zimbabwe. Explore Hwange National Park on a safari and finally disembark at the mighty Victoria Falls to feel the spray on your face. We recommend a stay at the luxury Victoria Falls Hotel.

Responsible TRAVEL

At Rainbow Tours we believe that, when tourism is managed well, it can be greatly beneficial to host countries and communities, but, when it isn't, the consequences can be devastating. We, the travel company, and you, the traveller, have the opportunity to decide how and where we travel—choosing journeys that leave the natural richness of the destinations we visit unchanged; journeys where you really get to experience and understand other people and their cultures.

Rainbow Tours offer a wide range of lodges, tours and activities that directly benefit local communities and help to support threatened habitats and endangered species. We choose intimate wildlife lodges like Saruni Samburu that have been instrumental in the formation of Conservancies in Kenya—critical not only for the protection of flora and fauna, but also in providing employment and support for the communities on whose land they have been created. We recommend boutique lodges like Hog Hollow, at the heart of South Africa's Garden Route, whose aim is to redress past inequalities by realising the potential of South Africans from nearby townships. We get excited about safaris in Malawi's Majete Wildlife Reserve, one of Africa's best conservation success stories, where the once-decimated elephant population is now thriving thanks to animal restocking and poaching education.

We do all of this in the knowledge that there is no compromise on luxury or wildlife on a responsible safari—in fact, the experience is all the richer for stepping off the beaten track and choosing a unique holiday that has a deeper connection to Africa's people and its precious ecosystems.



UTHANDO

Rainbow Tours make a donation from every South Africa holiday to Uthando, a non-profit and Fair Trade in Tourism organisation that raises funds for life-changing community development projects in South Africa. For example, projects like Isiseko Educare Centre, started by the wonderful Mama Zoliswa Siko, which now provides education for 100 of the most vulnerable and underprivileged children in Mfuleni Township. Other projects include safe centres such as eKhaya eKasi ("Home in the Hood") Art and Education Centre that offer after-school activities for children facing extreme poverty, teaching literacy as well as performing and visual arts. *Photo courtesy of Uthando.*



MONEY FOR MADAGASCAR

Rainbow Tours are long-time supporters of Money for Madagascar, organising fund-raising events and making a donation for every Madagascar holiday booking. The charity funds a variety of projects aimed at tackling the key issues facing Madagascar today including extreme poverty, loss of biodiversity, poor health, lack of food security and limited access to education. Every year, more than 1,000 street kids receive food, education and medical care at Money for Madagascar-funded drop-in centres, and 95 classrooms built by the NGO are used to educate more than 4,000 children across the island.



AFRICAN PARKS

A donation from every mainland Africa booking supports African Parks' goal of rehabilitation and long-term management of protected areas. This non-profit conservation organisation is the largest counter-poaching force in Africa, managing ten protected areas that cover six million hectares between them. Success stories include the reintroduction of lions to Rwanda—a species that was expatriated after the genocide—along with stopping the decimation of Zakouma's elephant population in Chad, and restoring Majete Nature Reserve in Malawi, making it the country's premier wildlife sanctuary.



TRAVEL FOR IMPACT

A donation from every Rainbow Botswana holiday goes directly to Travel for Impact, an in-country NGO that works hand-in-hand with local charitable schemes to give practical guidance for effective and sustainable operations. By doing this, Travel for Impact helps each community project to reach its full potential. Beneficiaries are small-scale groups such as Polokong, an organisation that provides vital support to the elderly in Maun, a town where there is little provision for the ageing members of society. Travel for Impact enables Polokong to offer daily meals, personal care and the opportunity to socialise for those over 60 with no family or support network. *Photo courtesy of Travel for Impact.*

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