

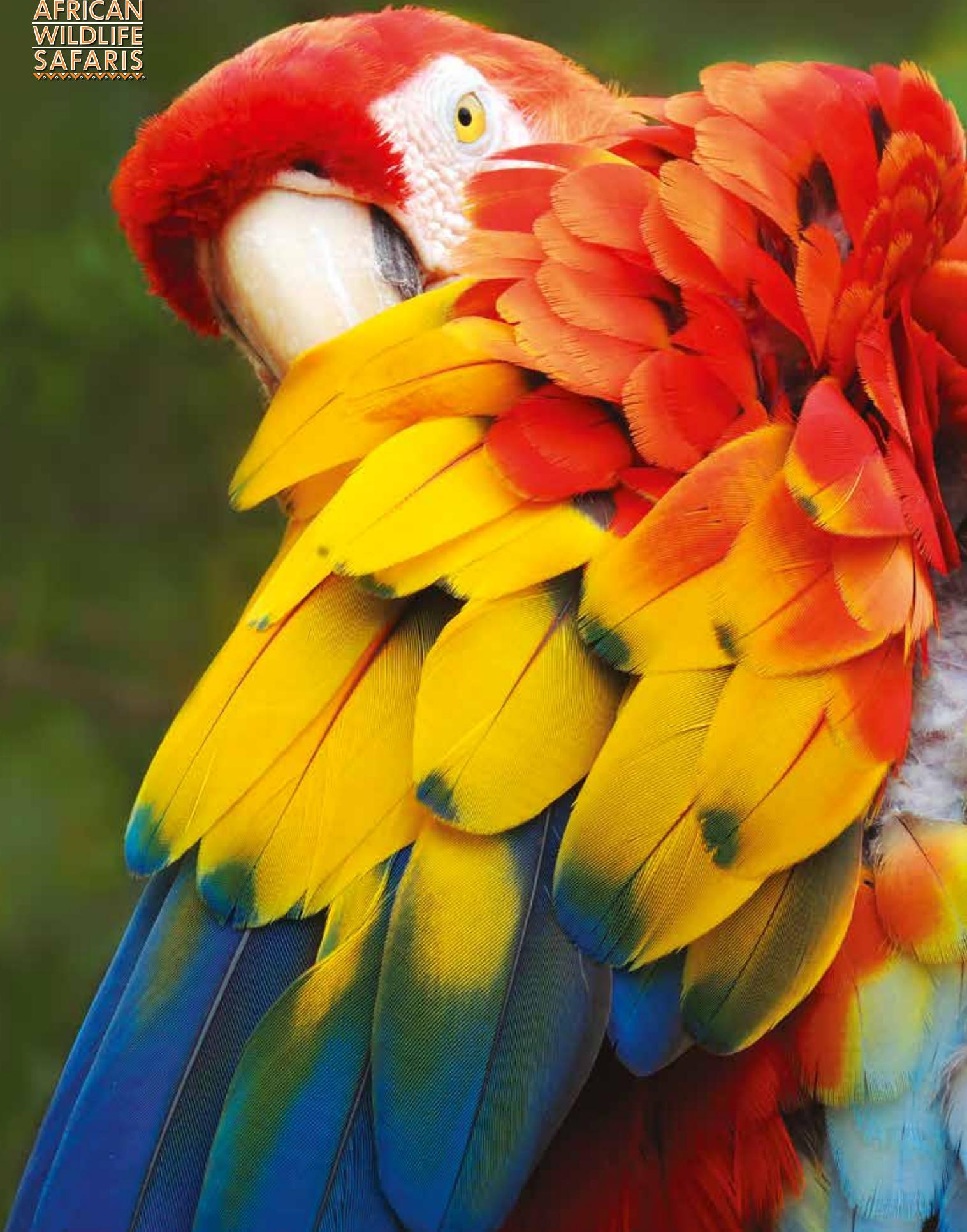
NATURAL FOCUS
SAFARIS



AFRICAN
WILDLIFE
SAFARIS

THE TALKING DRUM

2018 – Volume 1



African Wildlife
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FEATURES



INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

Happy New Year to all our readers and may 2018 be the year your travel dreams come true! In this edition of The Talking Drum, we share experiences from our recent journey with friends to Kenya – a special trip that reminded us of safaris in the days when we first started this company. The Masai Mara's wildlife remains as inspiring as ever, its scenery breathtaking, and the warmth of local Kenyans, unforgettable.

We also feature a voyage in the Galapagos Islands, famous for its endemic species as well as expeditions to New Zealand's remote Subantarctic Islands, renowned for abundant birdlife and rare flora. Cruising may well be the fastest growing sector in travel but trains take luxury transport to the next level. Read about South Africa's Blue Train, the ultimate indulgence, and Canada's wonderful Rocky Mountaineer within these pages.

To coincide with the release of our South America brochure, the spotlight is on Tierra Hotels who operate three stunning properties across Chile, a country awash with wide open spaces, stark deserts and shimmering glaciers. If Bengal tigers are on your radar, why not join our General Manager Anne Marie Zambelli on a small group journey to India? Our new *Tigers and Southern Delights* tour departs this October. Alternatively, register your interest for our annual *Taj, Temples & Tigers* set for February 2019.

Prime locations, stylish accommodation, gourmet cuisine and exceptional guiding are all part of the travel experiences we offer so let the unique destinations featured in this newsletter inspire your next life-changing adventure.

Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders



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OUR 2018 BROCHURES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please call us on 1300 363 302 to order your copy or visit africanwildlifesafaris.com.au to download them.



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DRUMBEAT

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Every client who books with us has the opportunity to donate \$10 (or more) to selected non-profit conservation or community organisations in destinations we travel to. We then match these donations dollar for dollar. As AWS charges zero administration fees, every cent goes directly to the projects we support.

In the second half of 2017, we gave USD\$7497.68 to the Great Plains Foundation for rhino relocation. The Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit also received USD\$3475.24 from us to assist with the protection of wildlife living near the famous waterfall.



AFRICA NEEDS YOU

Many of our preferred partners operate programs that we support through donations or by having our clients travel with them.

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, to which we contributed in 2017, celebrated numerous successes this year, including the removal of 350 snares from gorilla habitat and the expansion of protected rainforest in the Congo.

Thanks to strong visitor numbers, our ground operator Twiga in Kenya was able to commit USD\$40,000 to their Manji Foundation, which assists around 5,000 children annually with acquiring education.

As part of your Kenyan safari, you too can give something back with our friends at One Horizon. They can organise a visit to one of their projects so you can see a whole different side of Kenya.

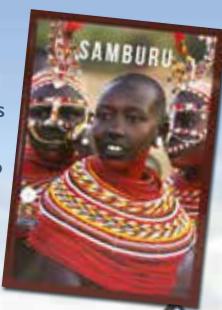


BUSH BEAUTY

New to the southeastern Okavango is Wilderness Safaris' Qorokwe Camp. Surrounded by permanent water and lush vegetation, this impossibly stylish safari camp draws inspiration from its environment, with plenty of natural timbers and neutral tones used in its decor. Reflective lily pools border the airy living areas, mirroring the lagoons and waterholes beyond. Outside, lion, giraffe, zebra and elephant flourish, as do herds of thirsty buffalo, the animal from which Qorokwe derives its name.

SAMBURU SPIRIT

Last November, AWS CEO Steve Cameron travelled to Sasaab in Kenya and presented the local Samburu tribe with a photo book containing images he took of them the year before. Read about their interactions on page 24. You can also contact us to purchase a copy, beautifully printed by Momento Photo Books. The book retails for \$150 including standard postage, with \$45 from every sale going to the Westgate Conservancy, where the community resides. Contact us at info@awsnfs.com for details.



REMEMBER TO BOOK EARLY

We specialise in small, boutique lodges and wild destinations - as such, space is often limited. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We love to know how your trip went and we warmly welcome your feedback. Send us an email, photos or even videos of the places you saw and the animals you encountered. Alternatively, leave us a Google review. We may publish this information on our websites, in our brochures or on our social media channels with your permission.





RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

TOWARDS 100

In response to an exponential rise in illegal rhino poaching, Rhinos Without Borders was established as a joint initiative between andBeyond and Great Plains Conservation. These two organisations have been esteemed partners of our company for years, and utilise ecotourism to sustain a range of invaluable conservation programs. Rhinos Without Borders is one of them, with the aim of translocating 100 rhinos from poaching hotspots in South Africa to safe havens in Botswana.

Rhino horn remains one of the most sought after products in the illegal wildlife trade. With rhinos being lost at a faster rate than the species could breed, the clock was ticking. However, reflecting on the latest move, andBeyond CEO Joss Kent said:

"The momentum of this project has been unbelievable to witness. It took us 3 years to move 37 rhino and now we have moved 40 rhino in just 3 weeks! Aside from the sheer logistical and technical challenge of

moving that many rhino in such a short space of time, this represents the incredibly tight cohesion and teamwork that has developed between the &Beyond and Great Plains Conservation teams.

You simply can't describe what it's like to see these huge but fragile animals touching down in a massive military aircraft in Botswana, and watching the vets, capture teams, Botswana Defence Force and a lot of other key personnel jumping in and getting their hands dirty.

The dream - which some would say is an unachievable, crazy dream - of 100 rhino is in sight, and the entire RWB team is galvanised to cross that "finish line" as swiftly as we can".

This latest achievement has seen Rhinos Without Borders racing towards its target, with the total count currently standing at 77.

To read more about this incredible effort or to contribute, visit www.rhinoswithoutborders.com.





GLAMOROUS ADVENTURE

Patagonia & Atacama

One of South America's foremost purveyors of luxury adventure, Tierra Hotels will immerse you in Chile's larger-than-life landscapes. Whether it's culture, wildlife, volcanoes or glaciers you seek, there's a menu of excursions rivalled only by the wine and spa treatment lists.

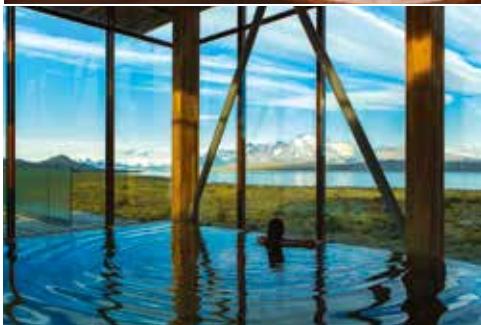
All-inclusive tariffs are standard across the Tierra portfolio, comprised of three architecturally splendid structures in equally breathtaking environments.

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa is a vision of curved timber and glass commanding unparalleled views of glassy Lake Sarmiento and the Torres del Paine massif. Hike to the electric blue icebergs at the mouth of the Grey Glacier or to a viewpoint overlooking the dramatic granite spires that gave the national park its name.

Alternatively, curl up in a chair by the log fire with a glass of delicious Chilean wine in hand.

Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa was constructed by some of the country's finest creative talents. Built over an old cattle corral, local stone and adobe feature heavily in this contemporary oasis. The most difficult decision to make here would be whether to walk through ancient villages, look for flamingos on the Atacama salt flats, summit a volcano or spend time in the peaceful Uma Spa.

Their third property, Tierra Chiloé, was recently remodelled to incorporate a whole new wing. Read more about this exceptional hotel on the following page. To have a Chile itinerary tailor-made for you, contact one of our South America specialists on 1300 363 302.





SPLENDOUR IN ISOLATION

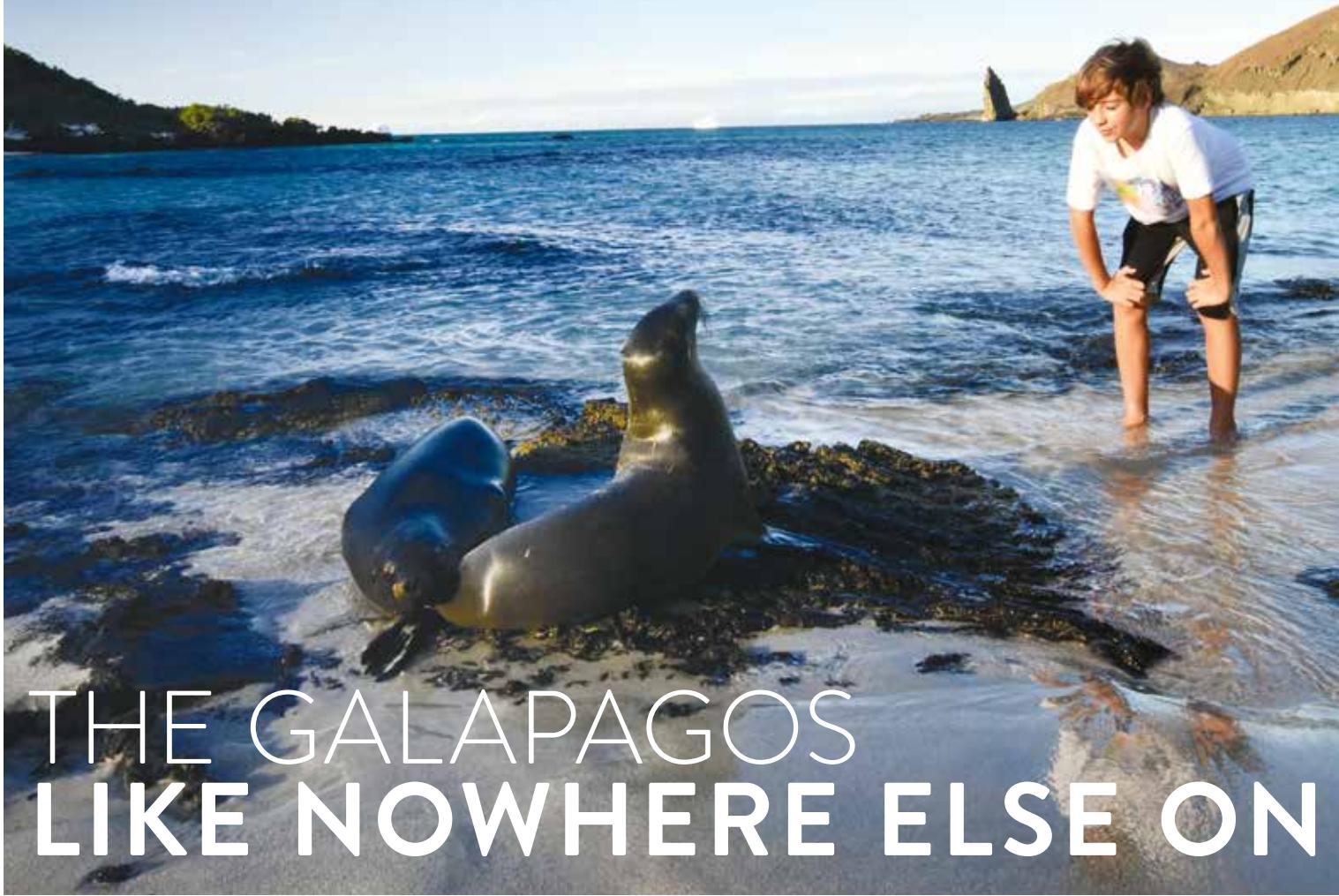
Chiloé Island

This picturesque and surprising island lies in the Chiloé Archipelago in northern Patagonia. Dotted with colourful fishing villages that share a rich seafaring culture, a trip here is one that goes back in time. Separated from the mainland by the Chacao Strait, Chiloé retained its indigenous identity for many centuries and even now, many of its villagers still hold fast to their belief in ghost ships and spirits. Their architecture is also distinct, featuring timber houses known as palafitos, clad in wooden shingles and built on stilts over the sea. Situated where ocean meets land, Tierra Chiloé's striking geometric exterior is modelled on these attractive traditional island homes. Interiors contain carefully chosen woodcarvings and handmade textiles, with huge windows so you can always keep an eye on the ever changing waters outside.

Gain an understanding of daily life by visiting artisan wood carvers, boat builders, wool spinners, accordion players and even seaweed gatherers. Sail out to neighbouring islets on the lodge's own boat - the Williche - to inspect 18th and 19th century Jesuit churches, sixteen of which are World Heritage Sites. You could even paddle out to penguin or sea lion colonies, with "toninas" (Chilean dolphins) in your wake.

In the evening, head back to your hotel for a well-deserved Chilean pisco made with creamy local honey and homegrown herbs. The restaurant specialises in farm-to-plate fare and is the perfect place to sample hearty regional dishes such as curanto, a stew of seafood, potatoes and meat cooked on hot stones in the ground.





THE GALAPAGOS LIKE NOWHERE ELSE ON





EARTH

The incomparable Galapagos Islands will awe even the most seasoned traveller with its free-ranging giant tortoises, fearless endemic birdlife and inquisitive sea lions. This is a land still unmarred by man, where evolution happens in real time. Africa might have its “Big 5” but the Galapagos boasts the “Big 15”: the Galapagos Penguin, Galapagos Hawk, land iguana, marine iguana, Santa Fe iguana, American Flamingo, Galapagos sea lion, Galapagos fur seal, Galapagos Albatross, Flightless Cormorant, two types of frigatebird and three kinds of booby (large seabird).

As this distant archipelago spans over 138,000km², how do you maximise your chances of seeing these emblematic species? Longtime operator Metropolitan Touring offers the following tips to ensure the most memorable experience.

HAVE AN EXPERTLY PLANNED ITINERARY

Not all itineraries are created equal. Key islands such as Genovesa, North Seymour, Fernandina and Española are a must-see, but what makes these coveted sites truly special is a carefully coordinated visit so vessels are alone at the time of anchoring. Metropolitan Touring passengers are also divided into small, exclusive groups upon landing.

FEWER GUESTS, MORE GUIDES

The average group size on the ground in the Galapagos is 16. Metropolitan carries more guides on board, so this number falls to around 12, enhancing your personal connection with the islands. As all activities here must be accompanied by a licensed guide, having multiple guides allows for a wider range of pursuits and less downtime - so you can kayak, while your companions snorkel, for instance. A multi-guided ship also lets you choose how much (or how little) you interact with fellow passengers and permits explorations at your preferred pace.

FIRST CLASS FACILITIES AND THE LUXURY OF SPACE

The cruising industry has a guest-space ratio (GSR), a measure of how much personal space each passenger has on a ship. A GSR of 20 is comfortable; anything lower might require hanging out in your cabin. Metropolitan's vessels have a median GSR of 28, which means more room to read, relax and watch the Galapagos go by.

It goes without saying that the standard of service and accommodations on board the Metropolitan fleet will make you forget how far you are away from the mainland. But did you also know that many Metropolitan crews include a Medical Doctor? That's taking safety to the next level.

To start planning the Galapagos cruise of your dreams, contact our South America specialists on 1300 363 302.



INDIA WHERE NATURE AND CULTURE COLLIDE



As far as wildlife and wilderness destinations go, my passion is Africa, a continent to which I have had a long association and where I first got up close and personal with animals in the wild. However, it is no secret that I love travelling to India. Over the years, I have immersed myself in the country's fascinating history and fallen for its natural attractions: beautiful bold rivers, imposing hills, golden grasslands and dense forests. Oh, and did I mention the magnificent Bengal tiger?

For me, India is a country where nature and culture collide. In every state, there are regal palaces and magnificent forts that stand tall in ancient cities and villages. Yet not far away from these thriving hubs,

there are also open meadows and thick jungles filled with rich flora and fauna. After seeing photographs taken in India's wildlife parks and reserves, many people express disbelief that such a heavily populated country could still have such untrammeled places.

Like Africa, no trip to India is ever the same. Each visit for me offers different experiences, which is what makes every journey so memorable. Come and see the subcontinent for yourself – contact one of our India specialists for a personalised tailor-made tour or join me on one of our exclusive escorted tours.

Anne-Marie Zambelli

TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS 2019

Register your interest

Join Annie on our Taj Temples & Tigers Tour, set to depart Tuesday 05 February 2019. The focus of this small group tour is the magnificent Bengal Tiger and the itinerary includes a stay in three of India's best known wildlife reserves. There is also plenty of time on the 17 day itinerary to take in historic landmarks such as the Taj Mahal in Agra and the sensual sculptures of Khajuraho. As the maximum group size is 16, places are limited. Please register your interest today by contacting us on 1300 363 302.



TOUR ESCORT

Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli

After more than 30 years in the industry, our General Manager's passion for travel continues undimmed. She fell in love with India on her first visit in 2002, and returns each year to experience somewhere new! A wildlife enthusiast, she has searched for endangered rhinos in Kaziranga and tracked tigers in Ranthambore, Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Kanha and the Sundarbans. Annie will be escorting her eleventh Taj, Temples & Tigers tour in 2019.





TIGERS & SOUTHERN DELIGHTS

Escorted Small Group Tour – India
Departing Monday 15 October 2018

We invite you to join us on this exclusive small group tour to India, accompanied by our General Manager Anne-Marie (Annie) and Indian naturalist, Tirath Singh. Annie has travelled extensively throughout the subcontinent, while Tirath is a well-known specialist guide who runs a birding lodge in Bharatpur. Together, they'll lead this unique 18 day journey through India, which begins in the north with a stay at one of the country's finest wildlife reserves, Ranthambore. Here, you'll embark on safaris in search of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Then it's on to the southern states of Karnataka and Kerala – a very different part of the subcontinent – lush and rural, filled with sleepy villages, backwater canals and charming historic cities. Take a boat or cantor into Nagarhole National Park to view some of its 300 avian species and if you're lucky, you might even spot a leopard.

In Kochi, learn to prepare a traditional meal at a family farm, before boarding a classic houseboat to navigate the narrow, palm-fringed waterways of Alleppey. Admire elaborate Chinese fishing nets at Fort Kochi and take in a performance of expressive Kathakali dance. For rich history, vibrant culture, exotic cuisine and of course, tigers, this escorted tour has got it all.

TOUR COST - 18D/17N (1 in-flight)

EX MEL	EX SYD	EX BNE	EX ADL	EX PER
\$12,438 per person twin share	\$12,416 per person twin share	\$12,411 per person twin share	\$12,405 per person twin share	\$12,432 per person twin share

Single travellers on request.

Maximum group size 14

Price per person includes: Economy class airfare (strictly subject to availability) with Singapore Airlines for a maximum of 35 days, internal airfares, all current passenger departure taxes and levies, accommodation inclusive of taxes and meals as per itinerary, train fare Delhi-Swai Madhopur in air conditioned car chair, transfers by air conditioned vehicle, city tours and excursions as per the itinerary, jungle excursions by jeep, special cantor & boat, services of a local English speaking naturalist, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel and at meal times, standard still camera fees and gratuities.

(Clients joining from Adelaide will require a short stay in Singapore or overnight on the return journey (additional cost) as the flight from Singapore to Adelaide does not connect on the 1st November. Please contact us for details.).

Price excludes: Items of a personal nature.

For further information and to reserve your place please call Anne-Marie on 1300 363 302 or (03) 9249 3705.





Heritage Expeditions



THE ALBATROSS LATITUDES

Pioneers in expedition cruising, Heritage Expeditions offers inspirational small group voyages to far-flung wildernesses in the formidable Southern Ocean. Your ship is the nimble, ice-strengthened Spirit of Enderby. Carrying just 50 passengers, this vessel is designed to leave the lightest possible footprint on the precious ecosystems it traverses. Your crew on the other hand, are dedicated to ensuring your voyage leaves such a deep impression you disembark a newly minted ambassador for conservation.

The 11 day *Beyond Fiordland: New Zealand's Wildest Islands* sails to three Subantarctic Islands: Campbell, the Aucklands and The Snares. These isolated, windswept isles are the preferred habitat for ten of Earth's 13 species of albatross, the largest surviving flying animal, with wingspans capable of reaching 3.5 metres. Birder or not, no visitor could fail to be blown away by the sheer number and variety of seabirds that call this region home. You'll also unravel fascinating

human history on New Zealand's third-largest island and navigate the often misty sounds of largely unexplored Fiordland on the country's southwestern coast.

The 13 day *Galapagos of the Southern Ocean* focuses on four of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands: The Snares, the Aucklands, Macquarie and Campbell, each one a shining example of the region's staggering biodiversity. Feel the forceful gales that persist at these southerly latitudes that are forbidding to man, but crucial for large-bodied albatrosses to remain airborne. Witness the cacophony of "Penguin City", where enormous Southern Elephant Seals loll amongst thousands of noisy penguins, and seek out the astonishing array of rare flora and fauna that have made these faraway islands their refuge.

For more information and a full itinerary on these departures, please contact us on 1300 363 302.





ANCHORAGE: AMAZING ALL YEAR ROUND

The starting point for almost every Alaska traveller, Anchorage has nearly as many attractions as it has moose (approximately 1,500 at last count!). With almost 500 kilometres of trails within its boundaries, this is a city begging to be walked, cycled, snowshoed or skied.

Take advantage of spring's clear skies and long hours of sunshine by cruising spectacular Prince William Sound to the active Surprise Glacier. Glide through waters inhabited by sea otters, harbour seals and grey whales, the latter which mark the arrival of springtime.

Summer is when moose calves appear and bears are most active. Massive Kincaid Park and the soaring Chugach Mountains are both areas close to downtown where you might observe these creatures, but a day trip (or longer) to famous Brooks Falls or Lake Clark National Park can't be beaten for grizzlies, who often gather by streams and rivers to catch spawning salmon.

Autumn paints the foliage red and gold. It's also rut season, when bull moose double in size, sporting massive antlers. Days are shorter, but trains and many ships continue to operate, allowing visitors to appreciate fiery fall colours from a different perspective. Make the most of still-mild temperatures by learning to dogsled or by dropping a line for salmon and trout.

In winter, the otherworldly Northern Lights light up night skies in hypnotic bands of green, yellow, blue and purple. By day, Anchorage is a white playground, with plenty of ski trails and skate ponds. Join in the fun at the Anchorage Fur Rondy or meet legendary dog mushers at the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Cold weather coincides with the Christmas holidays - when craft fairs and bazaars are in full swing, so take the opportunity to meet Alaska's many artists and authors.

To start planning your Alaska holiday, contact us on 1300 363 302.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

A Moveable Feast

Satisfy all your senses aboard Rocky Mountaineer, which carves its way through the epic terrain of Canada's Rocky Mountains. Your sensory experience begins from the moment you recline in your spacious seat, and are handed a glass filled with something delicious, in preparation for a toast as the train leaves the platform.

With four routes passing through some of Western Canada's most jaw-dropping sights, you won't be able to take your eyes off the panoramas offered by Rocky Mountaineer's all-dome fleet. Not sure if what you saw was a bear or a sasquatch? Your friendly, smiling Hosts will help you interpret the spectacles as your train slows down to picture-perfect speed. They'll also regale heartwarming stories and magically appear every time your drink needs a top up.

Making friends and feasting on the scenery is hungry work. Luckily, there's a masterful team of chefs accompanying every departure.

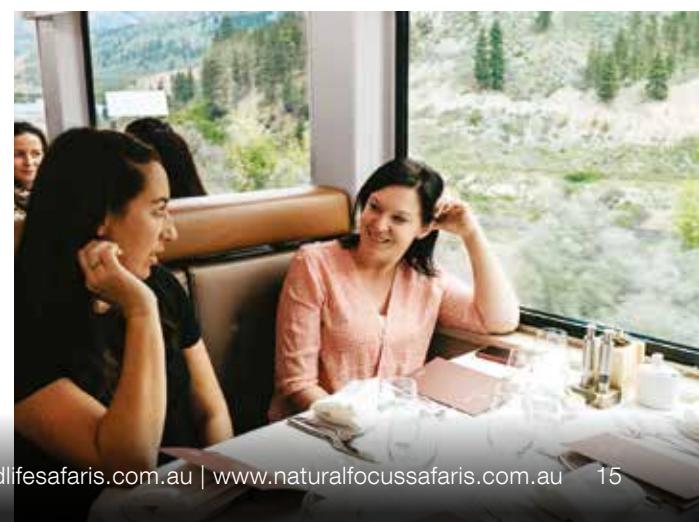
Meals onboard are always included and embody the many mouthwatering flavours of Canada. Breakfast may consist of fresh baked flaky croissants or buttery cinnamon scones served with seriously good coffee. Lunch, tender Fraser Valley chicken or juicy Alberta beef served with a full-bodied British Columbian wine or icy craft beer. Just make sure you leave room for dessert!

GoldLeaf Service passengers dine on crisp white linen in a dedicated lower-level dining room, below their dome carriage. SilverLeaf Service passengers have their meals plated seat-side. Satisfy your stomach, then stretch your legs and inhale some pure mountain air by wandering out between the coaches. GoldLeaf Service provides the added benefit of entry to an open-air vestibule, so you can feel the cool alpine breeze as the train winds beneath gigantic snow-covered peaks and lofty evergreen pines.

As the setting sun casts its golden glow over the Canadian Rockies, you'll alight and make your way to the finest accommodation your stop has to offer. Upgrades are available at almost every hotel in case you're craving a bigger room or even better view.

Contact us to learn more about the most moving rail journeys in Western Canada.

EER



LAYING THE GRIZZLY BARE

With average adult males tipping the scales at 270kg, grizzlies (known scientifically as the North American brown bear) are an awe-inspiring symbol of the wild. Once widespread across the continent, grizzly bears are now only common in parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Alaska. Fortunately, hunting bans and the establishment of reserves for these strapping omnivores have helped bear populations in certain regions to rebound.

In southwest Alaska, along the coast and in the Kodiak Archipelago, individuals regularly reach 600kg, while the islands and inlets of western British Columbia are inhabited by grizzly, black and spirit bears, the latter being a rare subspecies of black bear sporting a cream coat. A number of comfortable bear lodges exist in these secluded regions, where guests may observe these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.

SO WHEN SHOULD YOU GO?

Dec-Mar: Bears hibernate throughout winter, emerging from their dens only around April, when the first new shoots appear.

Apr-Jun: In many areas, spring viewing is done by boat to permit close observation of bears with their newborn cubs browsing sedge grasses and digging for molluscs along muddy shorelines. Grizzlies often have twins, who will stay close to their mother for 2-3 years.

Jul-Sep: In summer, the bears move inland, in search of berries and fruit. As such, tours usually take place along logging roads or from tree stands in the forest. Towards mid-August, riverside blinds may also be utilised as bears begin to gather in rivers, in preparation for the annual salmon run.

Sep-Nov: Autumn is when normally solitary grizzlies converge at the water, ready to snatch spawning fish out of shallow streams or rushing waterfalls. This is their last chance to fatten up before impending cold weather so it's not uncommon to find dozens of bears side-by-side in channels.

For the best bear viewing places in Canada and Alaska, contact our Canada specialists on 1300 363 302.





HOOKED ON HAIDA GWAII

Formerly known as the Queen Charlottes, Haida Gwaii is a chain of 450 islands lying off British Columbia's untamed northwest coast. Seabirds nest here by the millions, and the dense, old-growth rainforests shelter the largest subspecies of black bear known to science. Salmon and halibut are so abundant offshore that healthy populations of orcas, otters, porpoises and whales patrol the coastline. Wildlife however, forms only part of Haida Gwaii's appeal - the Haida people have lived here for millennia, and their age-old culture is thriving.

Known for bold artistic expression, the Haida are masters in woodcarving, screen printing, weaving and metallurgy. Many fine examples of their work can be found in the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay, which is laid out to resemble a traditional village. Totem pole carving is another skill in which the Haida excel. Hewn from handsome red cedar, these can stand some 30 metres tall,

and are still used throughout the islands as signage, for support or to honour important figures.

While totem poles are common throughout Old Massett, Skidegate and Sandspit, an exquisite collection dating back to the early 19th century can be found at SGang Gwaay. This haunting UNESCO World Heritage Site is only accessible by seaplane or boat but is well worth the effort. Go with a guide to learn about their ancestors' past, inspecting ruined cedar dwellings and canoes created by residents long gone.

The surrounding coastal rainforest, known as Gwaii Haanas, brims with flora and fauna including Bald Eagles and bears, who feed on salmon, herring and molluscs found in the rich intertidal zone. Visitors can fish, crab and dig for clams too, or leave foraging to their hospitable Haida hosts, who have a saying that "when the tide goes out, the table is set". Packages start from \$5896 per person twin share for 4 nights ex Vancouver.



VIA RAIL: MAKE TRACKS ACROSS CANADA

With a comprehensive network linking the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, plus a wide range of affordable fares, VIA Rail should be your first choice for hassle-free travel across Canada. Simply sit back in your spacious seat and let the many sights of the world's second-largest country roll by. For longer itineraries, trains are conveniently equipped with comfortable sleeping berths and shared washroom facilities. Some also offer indulgent private ensuite cabins complete with personal concierge service. With these six routes to choose from, VIA Rail will have you well on your way.

THE CANADIAN

Covering a colossal 4,466 scenic kilometres between Vancouver and Toronto, The Canadian is your window onto the diverse scenery of Canada. From twinkling city lights to wide open prairies and snow-capped Rocky Mountains peaks, this route has got the country covered.

CORRIDOR

This 1,765km-long line between Quebec City and Windsor traces the mighty St Lawrence River and the shores of Lake Hudson, with stops in Toronto and Niagara Falls. Reap the benefits of timely and direct downtown transfers, bypassing all urban traffic.

THE OCEAN

Connecting Montreal to the picturesque Maritime Provinces, the 1,346km Ocean Route passes quaint provincial towns, charming small farms and rustic fishing villages en route to Canada's rugged North Atlantic coast.

JASPER-PRINCE RUPERT

Follow salmon-rich waterways from historic Jasper in the Canadian Rockies to Prince Rupert, a bustling port set amid dense temperate rainforest. Expect gorgeous alpine vistas on this spectacular 1,160km railroad.

WINNIPEG-CHURCHILL

Leave the clamour of Winnipeg behind as you enter the realm of the polar bear. At the end of this 1,697km track is Churchill, where subarctic species prowl the tundra beneath skies illuminated by Aurora Borealis as the weather turns cold.

MONTREAL - SENETERRE / JONQUIERE

This might be the shortest of VIA Rail's routes, but it's big on adventure. Trade skyscrapers and freeways for the towering evergreens, majestic waterfalls and rushing whitewater rivers of Northern Quebec.

For more information on VIA Rail, contact our Canada specialists on 1300 363 302.



EXPERIENCE THE SNOW TRAIN

Discover the magic of Canada in winter travelling from Vancouver on British Columbia's coast to Jasper or Edmonton in the Rocky Mountains, aboard the VIA Rail Snow Train. On this memorable overnight journey, take in dazzling white landscapes against a backdrop of majestic mountains and clear blue winter skies. Experience the allure of postcard-worthy rural hamlets wrapped in the fragrant smoke of wood fires and make lifelong friends as you travel in the warmth and comfort of a luxurious glass-domed carriage.

Both Sleeper Touring Class and Prestige Class passengers are pampered with superb meals as well as access to the elegant Bullet Lounge and a Park Car offering 360-degree views. Fall asleep at night in a cosy berth or spacious ensuite cabin, styled to mirror the rest of this art deco train.

This signature VIA Rail service combines perfectly with a tour of iconic Rockies destinations such as Lake Louise and Banff, where classic cold weather activities such as skiing, snowshoeing and dogsledding can be easily arranged.



AIR MAURITIUS: 50 YEARS OF FLYING



Established in 1967, Air Mauritius made its maiden flight with a tiny Piper Navajo to the neighbouring island of Rodrigues. Half a century later, the airline flies to 24 destinations across Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia.

With services between Mauritius and many major African cities including Johannesburg, Cape Town and Nairobi, consider a relaxing stopover in this tropical Indian Ocean republic en route to your big game safari. Or better yet, explore Mauritius as a destination in its own right.

In 2017, Air Mauritius took delivery of two Airbus A350-900 aircraft, widely considered to represent the future of medium and long-haul travel. These state-of-the-art jetliners showcase the latest technologies in inflight entertainment, including internet and telephone connectivity.

On board, Economy Class passengers can expect a roomier, more comfortable cabin with new ergonomic seating and generous 11.6" high definition screens. Business Class clientele will also find more space, plus fully horizontal lie-flat beds and an improved configuration where all seats are afforded direct aisle access.

Four more jets are slated for delivery over the next few years. Meanwhile, the existing Air Mauritius fleet will be progressively upgraded to further enhance the flying experience.

Air Mauritius offers direct flights from Perth to Mauritius, with codeshare services from Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Their new Airbus product will be available on flights departing Australia in mid-2018, on the same convenient schedule that travellers have come to rely on. For more information, call our Africa specialists.





Paradis Beachcomber



MAURITIUS: A TASTE OF PARADISE

Blinding white sand. Clear turquoise waters. Swaying coconut palms. That's as much as most people know about Mauritius. But ask anyone who has ever been to this tiny country off Africa's east coast and they'll surely rave about the food. Especially if they stayed at a Beachcomber resort.

Mauritius was first discovered by Arabs, then Europeans - the Dutch, French and British - who brought with them indentured labourers from mainland Africa and India, many who stayed for good. Following the Taiping Rebellion in the late 19th century, numerous Chinese immigrants also arrived, hopeful of a better life.

These cultures shaped the language, the music and of course, the cuisine. One of the standout items in the lavish Mauritian buffet at Cannonier Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa is the Creole "rougay pwason sale", which stars white salted fish. While Mauritians weren't the first to preserve fish in salt, the islanders certainly pioneered steeping

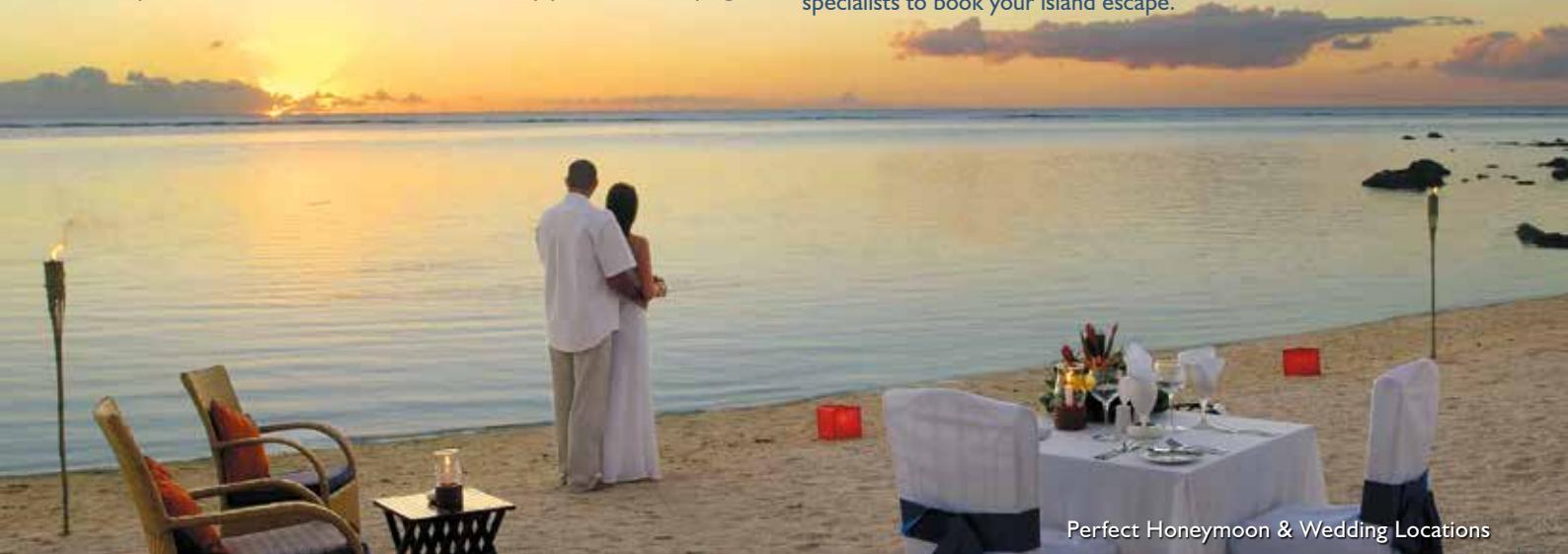
it in a tangy tomato sauce. Cannonier's Executive Chef Moorogun Coopen explains how he prepares his version of this local favourite:

"Start by placing the fish in cool water, before bringing it to boil. Drain, break the fillets up to remove any bones and then fry in hot oil."

The sauce is a mixture of ginger, garlic, onion, tomatoes, fresh thyme, coriander, chilli and curry leaves. Sauté the aromatics until fragrant, before adding the herbs, tomatoes (crushed) and chillies. Cook for 15 minutes, then add the fish and simmer for a short time, adding a few sprigs of coriander to finish. Voila!

A rougay pwason sale is normally accompanied by white rice, bouillon brèdes (a vegetable broth) and chutney. Wash it all down with a chilled white wine, lemon juice or lemongrass tea."

For an idyllic beach getaway that will tantalise your tastebuds, look no further than Beachcomber Mauritius. Contact our Indian Ocean specialists to book your island escape.



Perfect Honeymoon & Wedding Locations

Trou aux Biches Beachcomber Tropical Junior Suite



Spa at Dinarobin Beachcomber





MOMBO: A NEW CHAPTER

Without a doubt one of Africa's ultimate wildlife and ecotourism destinations, Wilderness Safaris' flagship Mombo Camp has been unveiled after a complete rebuild. With a history spanning 30 years, the new Mombo Camp is bigger, better and more luxurious than ever. Yet it remains true to its roots as an authentic safari camp in Botswana's most sought after wilderness - Chief's Island, in the renowned Moremi Game Reserve. Always changing, yet perennially hyper-productive for game, this is an area that supports incredible densities of large predators including lion, hyena, African wild dog, leopard and even cheetah. The new guest accommodations are absolutely show-stopping this time around. While each tented guest suite has been built on the exact location of the previous one for minimal impact on the environment, all have been extended to include a generous pool deck. Interiors are earthy in tone and furniture a tasteful

combination of mismatched pieces collected over many years. Less obvious but equally important are innovative design ideas such as louvre shutters instead of doors for privacy and air-flow. Tents also feature tri-layer insulation and UV-resistant fabrics for natural temperature regulation.

Wilderness Safaris Botswana MD Kim Nixon stresses that not a single tree was harmed in the build. In fact, a tree expert was called in so where required, ancient ebonies and jackalberries could be painstakingly pruned and applied with healing poultices to ensure their longevity. There are also plans to add two new gameviewing vehicles to the Mombo fleet as well as a boat station so guests can enjoy a range of seasonal water-based activities.

Mombo Camp and Little Mombo Camp both officially reopened in January 2018.





MEMORIES OF MOMBO

Regular guest and AWS client Graham Adkins had this to say about his experiences at Mombo over the years:

"Mombo, 'The Place of Plenty', is located on Chief's Island at the centre of Botswana's Okavango Delta. Over the past 18 years, I have been a guest there on seven occasions, staying at the first two iterations of Mombo Camp and most recently, at Mombo Trails, which provided temporary accommodation as upgrades took place. While the camp's name and location have varied slightly over time, the hospitality and quality of wildlife viewing have never changed. Many staff members have been there for years so for returning visitors such as myself, it's like being reacquainted with old friends. This connection may also extend to the wildlife you encounter. Martina the lioness, Legadema the leopard, Solo the wild dog and Stompy the elephant were all long-term residents of the area."

It's always a pleasure to see them again and hear of their exploits from Julius, Cisco, Tsile or any of the dedicated, highly skilled guides who love to share their knowledge of local wildlife and passion for their country.

Mombo Trails is now but a memory. However, I certainly hope to see the newest incarnation of Mombo Camp in the future. Even after thirteen visits to Africa, I haven't yet tired of the continent or its peoples. There is always more to learn, new things to see and the thrill of there being something unexpected around the next corner. What continues to bring me back to Chief's Island is the seasonal inundation coming into the Delta, the smell of wild sage, the sight of leopards in trees, drinking gin and tonic as the sun sets over a water-filled pan and driving back to camp as the moon rises behind baobab Bob. These are my special memories of Mombo."



KENYA'S SAMBURU

A Land of Tradition

AWS CEO Steve Cameron visited Sasaab, in Kenya's exclusive Westgate Conservancy, twice in the space of two years. Both times, he was very impressed by the genuine cultural interactions he enjoyed during his stay. This is Steve's report from his most recent trip:

"We deliberately chose November - the start of Kenya's low season - to avoid crowds and to see the normally dry landscape lush and green. Sasaab is very special as it doesn't receive many tourists and its people still practise many age-old Samburu traditions that have been lost in many other parts of Kenya. For instance, the local tribe, known as the Lkichami (loved ones), still dress every day in colourful robes with intricately beaded collars.

On this particular trip, we visited the Sasaab village where our guide Jacob grew up. We were warmly welcomed as friends and even invited to play a board game known as Mancala. Later, I presented the community with copies of a photobook I made using images I took of them around a year ago. I also managed to give one to Nambik, the cover girl, and although very shy, she and her friends clearly loved it.

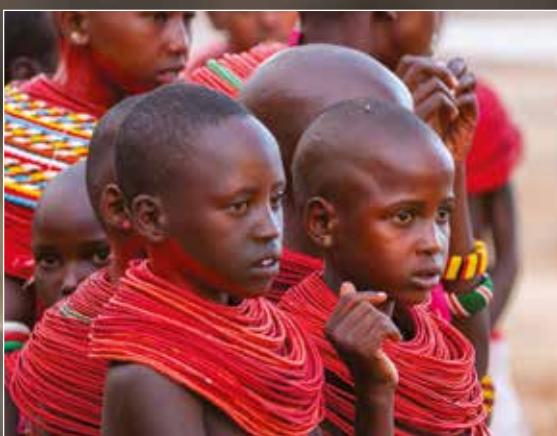
That evening, on the broad, sandy banks of the Uaso Nyiro River, we were treated to a ceremonial dance performance by young morani (warriors) and unmarried girls from both Sasaab and a neighbouring village. The tall morani were resplendent in their elaborate feathered headdresses, beaded arm bands and sheathed knives. Clustered together nearby were young girls, much more coy, resembling brightly coloured birds daubed in red ochre and draped in eye-catching beaded necklaces and brilliant skirts.

The morani began singing of battles long past, triumphant cattle raids and beautiful maidens loved. The men stepped forward one by one, jumping straight upwards as high as they could, each trying to outdo the man before. Then the girls joined in, and a conga line of dancers snaked their way along the sand, each one as graceful as giraffes. We "mzungus" subsequently joined in but I'm sure we looked far more ungainly!

As the sun dipped below the horizon, a goat was ritually sacrificed (out of sight of the tender young girls). What followed was a feast for all the villagers, to celebrate the coming of age of Sasaab's adolescents."

Buy a copy of Steve's photobook to support the Westgate Conservancy, or better yet, arrange to meet the Samburu on your safari by contacting our Kenya specialists on 1300 363 302.





MASAI MARA

Our Little Piece Of Eden

AWS founders Steve and Sara Cameron enjoyed Kenya's Masai Mara almost all to themselves on their last visit.

"This November, our little piece of Eden was Mara Plains Camp in a private concession within Kenya's renowned Masai Mara Reserve. The huge herds of migrating wildebeest and zebra had departed for Tanzania to the south, but so too had the tourists, and it felt like the Mara of our safaris 30 years ago.

The Mara is not paradise but the natural world, full of raw beauty and drama, birth and death. And this November, the rains had brought green grass so there were young antelope everywhere, some mere minutes old.

At our intimate and glamorous tented camp, tucked beneath trees on the Ntiakitiak River, we felt as if we were in the Africa of yesteryear. From the large living area, we looked out over grassy plains where zebra and wildebeest grazed. A pod of hippo kept up loud conversation during the day and bumped their way through the bushes at night (when we were all safely in our tents). Although the word "tent" hardly did justice to our enormous suites with king-sized beds, 'his and hers' copper hand basins and glowing copper baths!

Mornings and late afternoon we explored the Mara by land cruiser, meeting two large lion prides and finding a secretive leopard mother and cub. We saw two jackal trying to kill a young topi, which fortunately was successfully defended by its determined mother.

We had scrumptious bush breakfasts out on the grasslands and surprise bush lunches under shady trees. And mostly we had the plains to ourselves; a precious experience not easily found today."

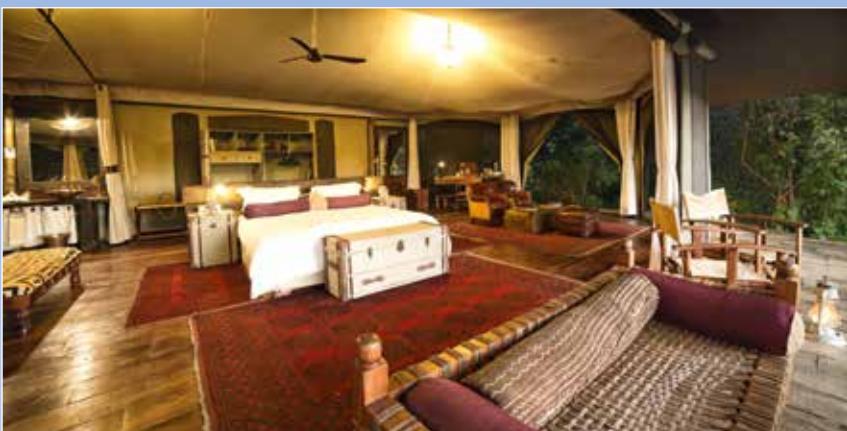
Angama Mara

"Our Kenya safari was drawing to a close but the grand finale awaited - Angama Mara on the spectacular Oloololo Escarpment. From Mara Plains, it was a long but exciting day's safari, driving via the celebrated Mara Triangle and with lunch on the banks of the Mara River watching hippo and crocodile. We explored the Musiara Marsh - made famous by the TV series 'Big Cat Diary' and then took the steep rocky road up the escarpment.

Angama Mara is a stunning lodge with glass-fronted rooms and expansive decks overlooking the Mara. The grasslands and winding rivers are laid out like an aerial map far below, and eagles soar on the rising thermals. It's a wonderful place for nature walks and also to meet the local Maasai who share in this collaborative development for people, tourists and wildlife.

One of the highlights of our stay was a dawn balloon safari, floating over the Mara River and looking down on surprised elephants, antelopes and wildebeest. Another was walking through the forest with a Maasai warrior, looking for colourful birds like the Narina Trogon, and being surrounded by a tower of inquisitive giraffes. And then there was the tour of Angama's amazing vegetable garden. Sometimes there seems to be no end to the wonders of the Mara."





REMOTE AFRICA SAFARIS: SPILLING THE LUANGWA'S SECRETS

Zambia's game-rich Luangwa Valley ranks amongst Africa's finest safari destinations and is also widely regarded as the birthplace of the walking safari. Operating some of the most exciting explorations of this pristine region on foot, family-run Remote Africa Safaris offers amongst the continent's best guides along with four very authentic bushcamps.

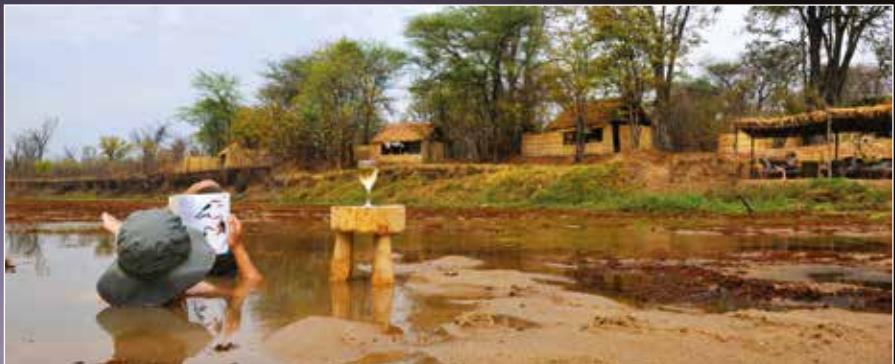
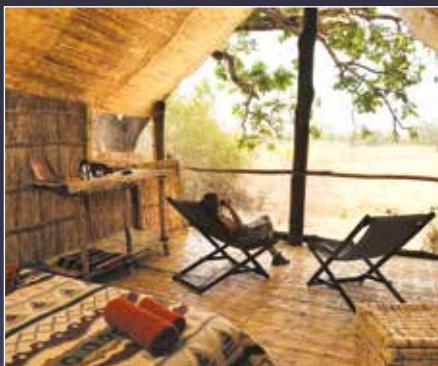
All lie along the wild Luangwa River. So what is it that makes their location so special? John Coppinger, who founded the company in 1995, had this to say about the remarkable waterway and the enchanting wilderness through which it runs:

"The Luangwa River never ceases to fascinate me. How many rivers are left on our planet as remote, healthy and scenic as the Luangwa? No dams, no commercial agriculture, no livestock. Certainly no other river in Africa can make such claim. Out here, wildlife flourishes and nature reigns supreme.

The fertile Middle Luangwa contains the highest density of hippos in Africa and this alone justifies the existence of three national parks: Luambe, North and South Luangwa. Some stretches of water also contain an incredible concentration of crocodile.

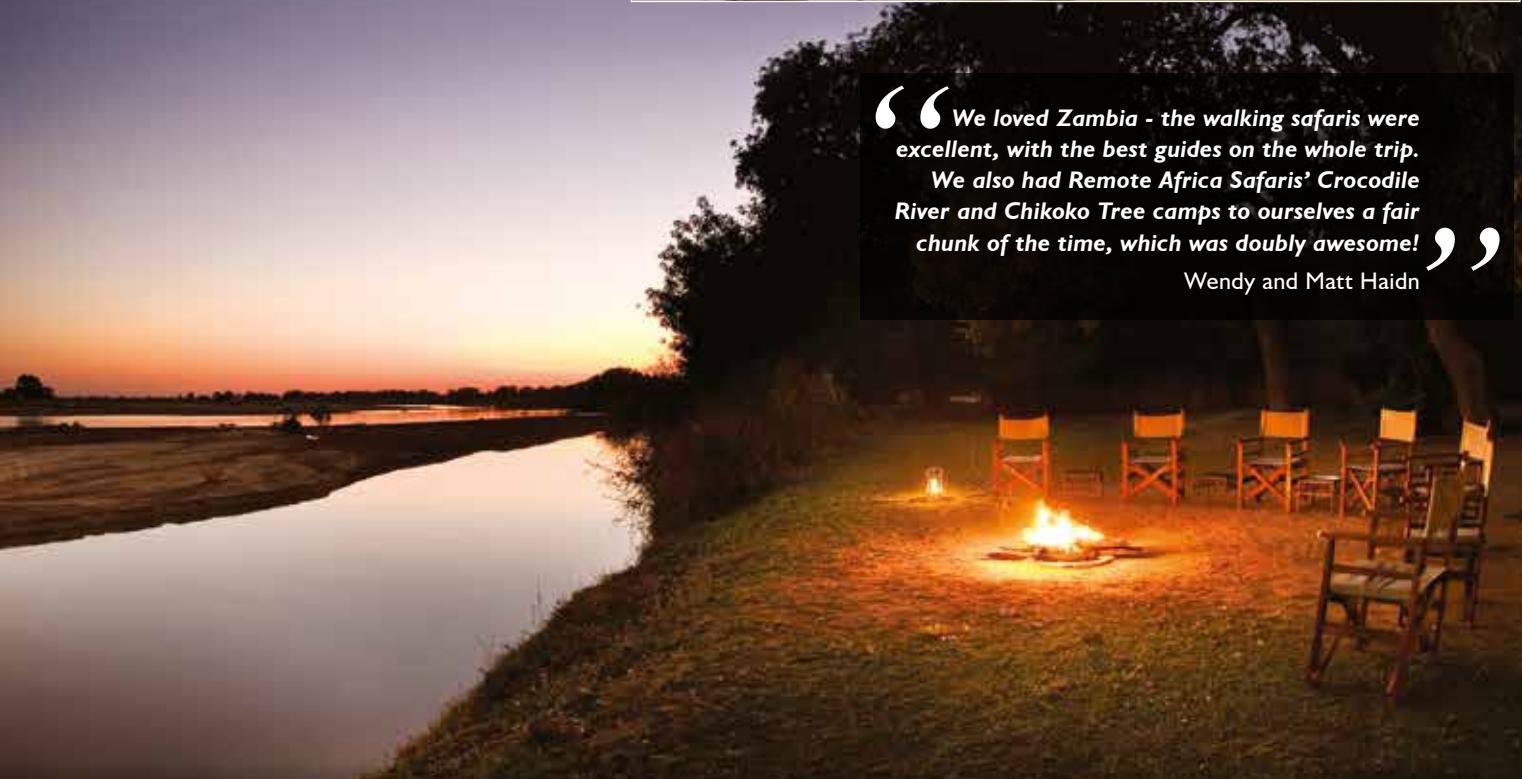
The surrounding basin harbours over 400 species of bird and has been dubbed 'The Valley of Elephants' as a great many of these iconic animals reside here. Lion and leopard too, are abundant, along with wild dog, Thornicroft's giraffe, buffalo, Crawshay's zebra, kudu, Cookson's wildebeest, eland, impala, puku, bushbuck, nine species of mongoose...the list goes on and on."

To see Zambia's astounding Luangwa Valley for yourself, contact our Africa experts on 1300 363 302.



“ We loved Zambia - the walking safaris were excellent, with the best guides on the whole trip. We also had Remote Africa Safaris' Crocodile River and Chikoko Tree camps to ourselves a fair chunk of the time, which was doubly awesome! ”

Wendy and Matt Haidn





WILD ZAMBIA IN STYLE

Based in Zambia's legendary South Luangwa National Park, The Bushcamp Company offers excellent guides and the most upscale accommodations within the national park's quiet southern sector. Commence or conclude your adventure at their award-winning Mfuwe Lodge. Set just inside park gates, Mfuwe is best known for elephants who traipse through reception several times a year to reach a fruiting mango tree.

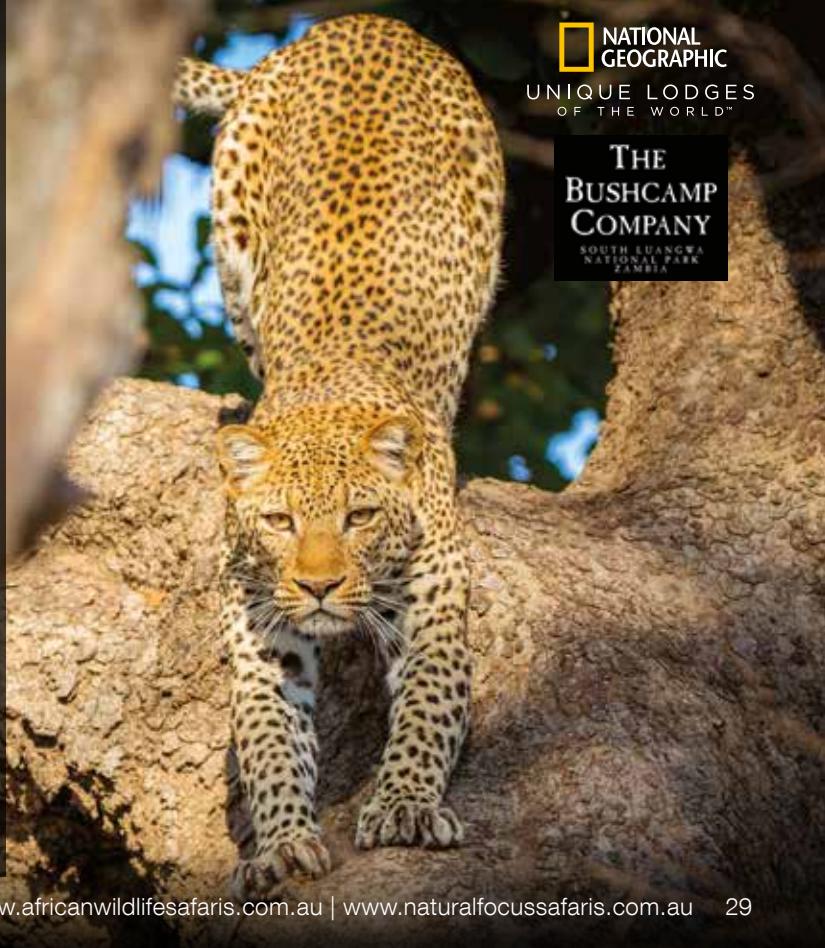
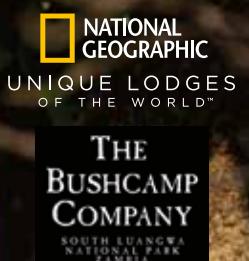
The Bushcamp Company's six other properties are scattered along the intersecting Kapamba and Luangwa rivers or their tributaries in the park's undeveloped southern sector. All have their own singular charms and unique, secluded locations. Chamilandu for instance, lies beside a hippo-filled lagoon while Bilimungwe's four thatched rooms sit beneath a thicket of ancient mahogany trees.

Walk around or between bushcamps. Alternatively, be driven partway. The beauty of The Bushcamp Company's portfolio lies in their camps' intimate sizes and wonderfully remote settings. These factors ensure that their expert-guided walking safaris and game drives uncover the South Luangwa's dizzying array of wildlife far from other visitors.

Talk to our Zambia specialists for more information about The Bushcamp Company.

"Gameviewing activities with The Bushcamp Company always felt exclusive, as there were no other lodges in the wilderness areas they took us to. We had great photographic opportunities and followed my favourite animal - the wild dog - for miles!"

David Kneale, AWS Graphic Designer





JORDAN: ICONS OF A KINGDOM

Spared from the turmoil that affects much of the Middle East, Jordan's most captivating monuments are a hive of activity. Travel specialist Natasha 'Tash' Redondo talks about her recent visit to this extraordinary desert kingdom.

Tash, tell us why you chose Jordan.

Jordan has been on my bucket list for a long time and I wanted to take this opportunity to explore its treasures before the big tourist crowds returned. Having just come from Egypt, Jordan was relatively busy - yet at many sites, I felt I had the place to myself.

Which sites did you visit?

Jerash, one of the largest and best-preserved collection of Roman ruins outside Italy and a medieval castle dating back to Crusader days. The fascinating desert valley of Wadi Rum, which my guide proudly informed me was the setting for the Hollywood blockbuster "The Martian", starring Matt Damon. I also floated in the Dead Sea and spent a whole day wandering Petra.

Did you have a favourite?

Petra - because it's so much more than the Treasury, which is the rosy-pink facade most people associate with this landmark. Its setting is amazing - amid rocky canyons and gorges - and the entire complex is huge! Because of Petra's size, there are many quiet vantage points including the glorious hilltop Ad-Deir, "The Monastery". The hike up there was challenging but the view was stupendous and the silence almost spiritual.

What advice do you have about travelling in Jordan?

A guide can make or break your trip - the ones I had were phenomenal. They had encyclopedic knowledge of each locale and were so passionate about Jordanian history and culture that it was hard not to share their enthusiasm. Hotel location is also really important - my Petra hotel was directly outside the archaeological compound, and I found that some Dead Sea "beaches" were much better than others!

For a personalised Jordan program, speak to Tash today.

SOUTH AFRICA



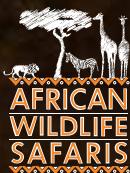
So Many Good Reasons To Visit

With its epic wildernesses, breathtaking landscapes, sun-kissed coastlines and vibrant cities, South Africa is unrivalled in its diversity. See the iconic “Big Five” on thrilling game drives in the glorious Kruger National Park, or encounter smaller creatures such as meerkats and aardvarks on nature walks in private game reserves such as Tswalu Kalahari. A South African safari is sure to touch your soul.

Its bustling cities are also well worth exploring, bursting with colour and life. Unravel Nelson Mandela’s life story in the museums and townships of Johannesburg, then take the luxurious Blue Train to Cape Town. This beautiful coastal city is gateway to the beguiling Cape Winelands, home to three centuries of viticulture and a burgeoning culinary scene.

Cape Town is also a popular starting point for self-drive adventures along the picturesque Garden Route. Watch the sun sink behind majestic Table Mountain, before heading off to discover penguins, seals, sharks and other magnificent marine life.

With semi-arid savanna to the north, miles of fynbos-clad shoreline to the south and so much in between, South Africa’s natural beauty will capture your heart. Its warm, friendly people are another major drawcard, so whatever direction you travel, expect to find smiles as wide as your own.



Inspiring new ways



THE BLUE TRAIN **SAPPHIRE** IS THE NEW BLACK



Over 70 years have elapsed since the original Blue Train first made its debut, but rail travel - as it was during its heyday in the first half of the 20th century - has now come rolling back in fashion. Named for its distinctive sapphire livery, this gleaming steel locomotive has a long, illustrious history as Southern Africa's premier passenger train. These days, The Blue Train glides only between Cape Town and Pretoria, but is essentially a five-star hotel on wheels and one of the best ways to cross South Africa in style.

On the relaxed overnight journey, enjoy a warm welcome to your plush ensuite accommodation from your very own personal butler. Sumptuous meals prepared with the freshest ingredients are served in the tasteful Dining Car. Think Norwegian salmon, Karoo lamb and even springbok - all which can be paired with the wide selection of premium South African beverages available on board.

The Southbound itinerary stops at Kimberley for a tour of the famed Big Hole, one of the world's largest man-made excavations. The Northbound program calls in at Matjiesfontein, a 19th century Victorian colonial town untouched by time.

Flying might be faster but rail travel allows for slow appreciation of the seemingly infinite Karoo landscape of South Africa's interior. It also bestows a level of luxury now lost with the advent of commercial flights.

Book the Blue Train in 2018 and receive a complimentary one night stay (pre or post rail journey) at a hotel in Pretoria or Cape Town. Call our South Africa specialists on 1300 363 302 to take advantage of this fantastic offer.





MALA MALA

The Safari Blueprint Reimagined

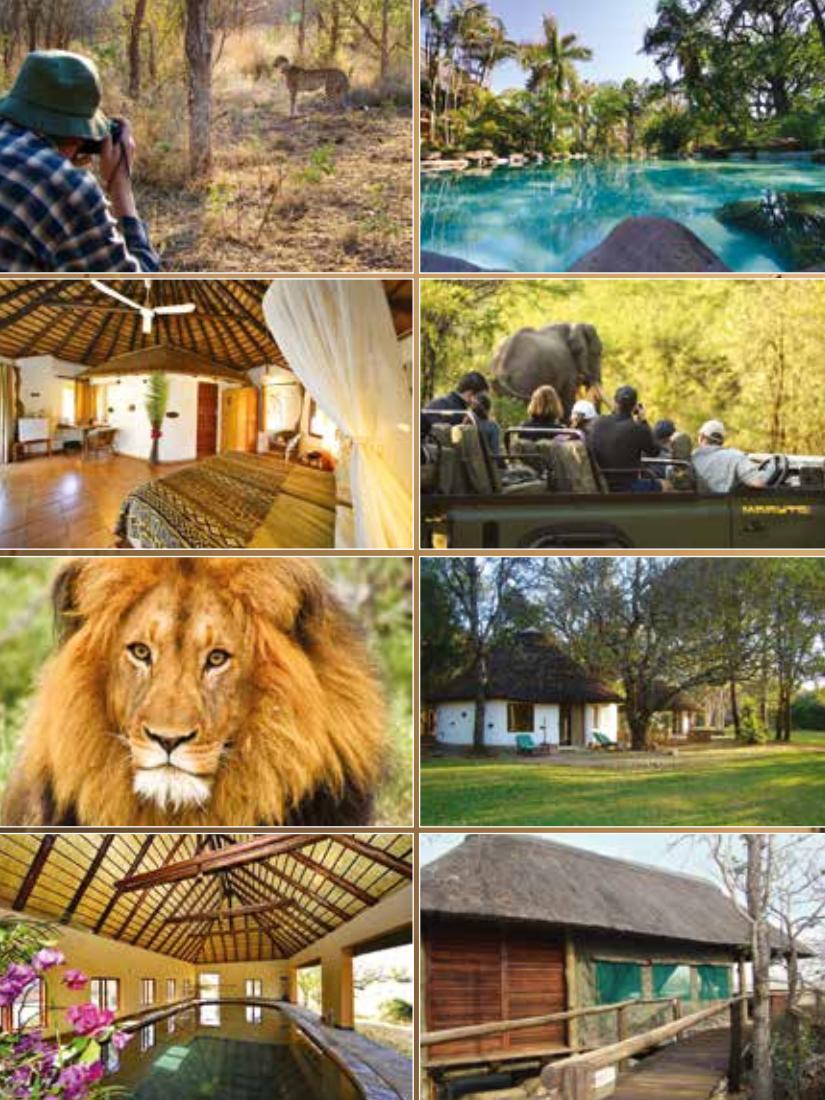
The oldest private game reserve in South Africa and first to transition from hunting to photography, Mala Mala is a sanctuary for both wildlife and guests seeking a relaxed yet unforgettable gameviewing experience. Fifty years of sound conservation practices and over 13,000 unfenced hectares of land to roam have allowed a diversity of species to flourish, from lion to elephant and even the handsome sable antelope, once on the decline.

Visitors to Mala Mala are often thrilled by the ease by which wildlife is found, thanks to the skill of their expert guides and the fact that animals here have already had several generations of exposure to game drive vehicles. Furthermore, the Sand River runs through the property's eastern sector, attracting plenty of four-legged traffic from the rest of Mala Mala and even neighbouring Kruger National Park, especially in the dry winter months.

Over the next six months, there is a tri-phase 'reimagination plan' in place to update all three of Mala Mala's evocative camps. Yet there is much that the owners are adamant will not change. You'll still receive the same genuine South African hospitality that guests did back in 1930, as well as savour delectable meals in the most atmospheric of settings.

On game drives, Mala Mala will continue to impose a restriction of three vehicles per sighting to ensure exclusivity and minimal disruption to wildlife. With a highly trained team of rangers at your disposal and no time limit on sightings, enjoy zero "queues to view" and all the time you need to capture images worthy of a National Geographic magazine.

Mala Mala's 'reimagination' project is now in its second phase, with Sable Camp already open and welcoming guests. Call us to find out more about Mala Mala.



MAKUTSI SAFARI SPRINGS: BUSH THERAPY

One hour west of Kruger National Park lies a South African paradise called Makutsi. Nourished by natural mineral springs, the vegetation at this laid-back, family-run safari lodge is luxuriant year-round. The therapeutic thermal waters also fill Makutsi's two sparkling swimming pools and attract both wildlife and visitors from all over the globe.

Makutsi Main Camp's thatched guest rondavels (circular chalets) are refreshingly devoid of technological distractions, so as not to detract from the sights and sounds of the surrounding bush. Wholesome meals are served in the welcoming central restaurant, prepared with fresh organic produce grown in the lodge gardens and free-range meats from Makutsi's own ranch.

Activities at Makutsi Safari Springs focus on the grand outdoors. Embark on early morning and late afternoon rambles with your guide, learning to track creatures big and small by their spoor. Open vehicle game drives allow you to get thrillingly close to some of South Africa's most recognisable species, from giraffe and cheetah to rhino and lion.

For complete immersion in nature, don't miss the sleepout at Makutsi Tented Camp, encircled by thousands of hectares of bushveld. Walking is the star attraction of this simple, adults-only campsite, situated atop a series of rocky outcrops with sweeping views of the rugged Drakensberg Mountains.

7 day/6 night packages at Makutsi Safari Springs start from \$1780 per person twin-share.





TSWALU KALAHARI

A SENSE OF SPACE

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™

Tswalu Kalahari is South Africa's biggest private game reserve, covering almost a quarter of a million acres. Once overgrazed farmland and a depleted hunting ground, the property was purchased by a prominent local family, who immediately sought to restore the area to its original natural beauty. Two decades on, Tswalu harbours superlative game, including a third of the country's entire population of critically endangered desert black rhino as well as healthy prides of magnificent black-maned Kalahari lions.

Accommodation in this magical corner of the southern Kalahari is a refreshingly modern take on 'safari chic', with suites designed for barefoot luxury. The entire Tswalu complex hosts no more than 28 adults at any given time, so you'll have the diamond skies and sweeping plains virtually all to yourself.

Children are welcome at this malaria-free wilderness and will love the lodge's two colonies of meerkats, which have become gently habituated to guests' presence over the years, while visitors of every age will adore Tswalu's cheetahs, easily spotted in the open grasslands.

General Manager Gus Van Dyk states with confidence that Tswalu is probably the best place on Earth to view the aardvark and pangolin, so elusive elsewhere in Africa. Other interesting species regularly seen here - often for the first time - include the aardwolf, bat-eared fox and African wild cat.

Tswalu Kalahari can be visited year-round and is easily reached by light aircraft from Cape Town or Johannesburg. As the lodge is unique and highly sought after, please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.





THE LEEU COLLECTION, FRANSCHHOEK: BETTER WITH AGE

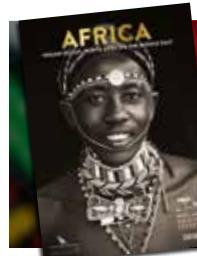


Slightly over an hour's drive outside Cape Town, there's a dreamy village with a distinctly French ambience known as Franschhoek. Established in 1688 by Huguenots, members of the Reformed Church of France, these early settlers brought with them the innovative cuisine of their home country. They also planted South Africa's earliest grapevines. These days, Franschhoek is one of the world's greatest culinary destinations, and there's no better place to begin your gourmet getaway than at a Leeu Collection property. Comprised of three five-star boutique hotels, the Leeu Collection portfolio began with the acquisition of Klein Dassenberg, an alluring plantation in the shadow of the Dassenberg massif. Two adjoining farms and an award-winning vineyard were then purchased and all four combined, to create the romantic **Leeu Estates**. This lovely wine country retreat is one of Franschhoek's top locations to eat and

drink as well as soak up gorgeously landscaped grounds, adorned with fabulous works of art.

Sophisticated **Le Quartier Francais** and chic **Leeu House**, both in the atmospheric heart of Franschhoek, have since been added to the Leeu Collection. Talented architects from every corner of South Africa were employed to preserve each hotel's gracious 19th century Cape Dutch exteriors, while ensuring that behind every heritage facade lay the most refined contemporary interiors. Should you wish to browse Franschhoek's many tempting boutiques or dine in its exemplary restaurants, these two prestigious addresses are steps from the main thoroughfare.

Central to the Leeu Collection are the very characteristics that set Franschhoek apart: delightful gastronomy, laid-back luxe and genuine South African hospitality. To incorporate Franschhoek into your travel plans, call us on 1300 363 302.



PLEASE CONTACT
US FOR YOUR
COPY OF OUR
2018 AFRICA
BROCHURE.

