

Welcome to Volume I of our Newsletter for 2020. This January is a special anniversary as it is 35 years since we first started African Wildlife Safaris. It has been an incredible journey and we would like to thank all the thousands of clients who have travelled with us, as well as all our dedicated staff. The adventure continues and this newsletter is just a taste of some of the wonderful travel experiences we have to offer.

In this edition we have plenty of stories to share from our own travel team who recently explored our destinations first hand. We also feature a fabulous array of hotels and lodges from around the world, including MalaMala, one of South Africa's premier private game reserves, and Canada's extraordinary Khutzeymateen Wilderness Lodge.

With our new South and Central America brochure soon to be released, this exciting continent is a key focus of this newsletter. Discover the pristine Galapagos Islands with Haugan Cruises aboard a luxury catamaran, or be inspired by the fabled 'Lost city of the Incas' - Machu Picchu. If Mexico's vibrant culture and ancient civilizations have ever been on your radar, read Taleen Gaidzkar's story on her recent trip (pages 14/15).

Africa continues to be our most popular destination. In this issue we have featured personal experiences by Kate and Eva from their amazing safari in Botswana with Desert & Delta Safaris. We also have a story on Zambia's Luangwa Valley and the Zambezi River following our own wonderful adventures there

Looking toward the Middle East, our General Manager Anne-Marie Zambelli recently visited Egypt with a small group of clients. It was Annie's first trip to this ancient land and she fell in love with its mysterious temples and the romance of the Nile. Read her story on pages 16 and 17.

We hope this newsletter will inspire you to journey to our wilderness destinations in the future!



Steven ameron Lawrence

Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders

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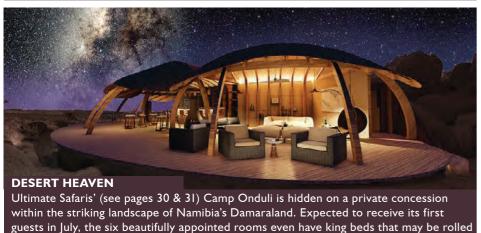


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NEW FOR 2020



The planned opening for the latest addition to the Governors' Camp Collection (see page 18) is early April and the location is a private conservancy in Kenya's Laikipia Plateau. Mugie House is set to wow guests with its setting and intimate safari experience. The area is home to endemic species, conservation and community projects.





out onto a private deck for a night under the stars.

Devastated by fire in December 2018 the iconic Wild Horizons Lookout Café in Victoria Falls has been rebuilt and is open for business. With one of the best locations at Victoria Falls, this stylish and casual dining establishment is a must when visiting Zimbabwe, if only for its spectacular views! Open daily, reservations stron



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

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 search for us on the web and leave us a Google review. We may publish this information in our brochure or on our websites social media channels with your permission.





REUSABLE PACKAGING FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS



We are reducing our impact on the environment by using Biowrap plastic! This eco-friendly plastic is not harmful to the environment once the breakdown process begins. The plastic can be recycled or disposed of in land fill. Either way, Biowrap completely degrades in direct sunlight or in the presence of oxygen within 12-24 months.



INDIA ESCORTED SMALL GROUP JOURNEY - Expressions of interest -

The subcontinent is a riot of colour, culture and history with generous pockets of remarkable wilderness. Yet for even the most seasoned travellers, India can be daunting. Our escorted small group journey, Taj, Temples & Tigers, offers the best opportunity to observe India's wildlife - including the Royal Bengal tiger. With the continued success of these escorted trips and limited places available we are taking expressions of interest for 2021. Full details and a confirmed departure date for this popular tour, escorted by our General Manager Anne-Marie Zambelli, will be available mid-March. Annie herself will be back from this year's trip at the end of February and would be delighted to discuss any aspects of the tour with you.

Please register your interest by contacting Anne-Marie or one of our India specialists on 1300 363 302 or at info@awsnfs.com.





GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST 3D IMAX

The much anticipated IMAX 3D film on the Great Bear Rainforest has arrived! On the remote British Columbia coast the rainforest is one of the wildest places on earth. Narrated by Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds the film will air at IMAX Melbourne until April. Details can be found here: www. https://greatbearrainforestfilm.com/

landscape of mountains, lakes and glaciers.



VICTORIA FALLS ANTI POACHING UNIT (VFAPU)

Established in 1999 by safari operator Charles Brightman the VFAPU works closely with the National Parks & Wildlife Management Authority of Zimbabwe to fight all forms of poaching within the Victoria Falls region. A long-time supporter of the organisation, to date AWS has contributed a total of AUD \$103,997.

Want to contribute?

You can join the VFAPU on a half day behind-the-scenes look at wildlife conservation. AWS founders Steve & Sara Cameron recently experienced this unique opportunity first hand, with a field trip into the Zambezi National Park to help record game sightings, identify spoor and sweep for wire snares.

DESERT LION CONSERVATION

Desert Lion Conservation Trust is a small not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of desert-adapted lions in Namibia where the biggest threat to these animals remains the human-wildlife conflict. Sales of The Last Elephant book (below right) from our recent client evenings with Wilderness Safaris raised AUD \$1.832.74 and this has been donated to the Trust. The funds will go to the Early Warning Loggers project - electronic devices that are placed near villages and livestock corrals that detect the movements of lions fitted with satellite and GPS collars. Whenever a lion comes close, the logger sets off bright lights and sirens to scare away the lions, warn communities and alert the authorities.



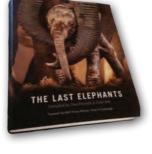
OFFSET YOUR FLIGHTS

We all love to travel but you can reduce your impact on our planet by offsetting your greenhouse gas emissions from your flights. Carbon Neutral use the funds raised through donations and carbon offsets to plant native trees on degraded land in Australia. The fund has planted over 5.4 million trees in 160 sites since 2001. For more information visit their website: https://cncf.com.au.



THE LAST ELEPHANTS

Inspired by the Great Elephant Census of 2016, which found a 30% loss in Elephant numbers in the last decade alone, this remarkable book features over 250 full colour photos, and offers profiles and preservation plans to combat the threats facing these incredible mammals. Available for just \$66 (inc GST ex postage) \$25 of each book sold will go directly to help fund conservation. To purchase please email info@awsnfs.com or call us on 1300 363 302.



AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES IMPACT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Sadly recent bushfires have ravaged the Australian bush far and wide. Many iconic species such as the kangaroo and koala have received much media coverage – and rightly so – but there are countless other lesser known species fighting for survival.

The South Australian Glossy Black-Cockatoo endemic to South Australia's Kangaroo Island is one example. Before the fires their population was estimated at just 400 individuals. The cockatoos feed almost exclusively on the seeds of one species of tree, the drooping she-oak (Allocasuarina verticillata). Initial estimates indicate as much as 59% of their habitat has been impacted by the bushfires, and this loss has put the species in a very vulnerable position.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Program, headed by Karleah Berris, is now underway. Karleah and her team are worried that the birds that have survived the bushfires may not be able to find enough food in the coming months, particularly as fires are still burning on the island. There is hope though. A healthy she-oak woodland on the eastern half of the island has escaped the fires, as well as small isolated patches within the burnt areas. Some birds have already been sighted post-fire feeding on these small patches of surviving she-oaks.

A detailed survey of the she-oak woodland and nests left within the burned area (once safe to do so) is the first step. Installing nest boxes near the she-oak woodland that remains will be paramount in providing the population with enough breeding habitat. The last and most important will be the continual planting of new trees, well-spaced and planted in cleared country to quicken the regrowth process. It is hoped that they will begin to produce seeds within 7 years.

As a travel business specialising in our planet's most unique environments we are committed to protecting important and vulnerable wilderness, and we make regular contributions to conservation. Every client who books with us has the opportunity to donate \$10 (or more) which we than match dollar for dollar. Our most recent conservation contribution, a total of AUD\$11,600, has been donated to the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Network (KIWN) to help with the long term recovery of the island.

If you would like to assist and make your own donation please go to: https://kiwildlifenetwork.wixsite.com/kiwn/donations











FALLING FOR THE GALAPAGOS

Remote and starkly beautiful the Galapagos Archipelago is filled with unique and diverse species. Located 1,000 kilometres off Ecuador's coastline the islands were made famous by Charles Darwin, after he published his ground-breaking "On the Origin of Species" in November 1859. Since then they have inspired explorers and visitors of all ages to explore their volcanic landscapes, crystal clear waters and unique wildlife.

There is no better way to experience these incredible islands then by small ship. Haugan Cruises operate 3 luxury catamarans that take a maximum of just 16 passengers each, allowing you to anchor at quiet beaches crowded with birds, sea lions and iguanas. These state-of-the-art vessels have spacious cabins with their own private balconies, elegant public spaces and comfortable outdoor decks fitted with sun beds and a Jacuzzi.





and witness the amazing beauty of these enchanted islands. From the moment you set foot on the islands you'll need to keep an

eye out for nesting seabirds and colonies of sea lions that sunbake on the rocks and sand. The sea lions enjoy themselves in the turquoise waters that reveal the heavenly white sand beneath your feet.

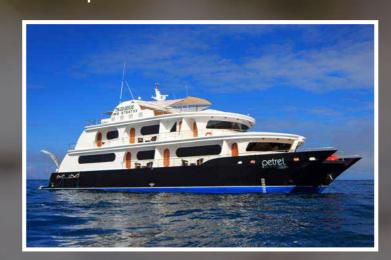
Española Island is home to three different types of finches first described by Charles Darwin. You might also see the Spanish Mockingbird, native to the island. Watch out for them as they come close toward you, always looking for attention. One of the greatest pleasures is that the wildlife do not see humans as a threat, allowing you to get within metres of them. It's important to remember to only allow the wildlife to approach you.

Cruise silently at night between the islands and wake up in breathtaking new locations each morning; such as Cormorant Point where there are two distinctly coloured beaches. Stingrays are a common sight here too.

Experience some of the best snorkelling locations in the world. Devil's Crown is surrounded by amazing volcanic structures that make this spot unique, crowded with hundreds of species of colourful fish. Sharks, sea turtles, sea lions and rays are in abundance here too creating a magnificent underwater spectacle.

In one of the most beautiful and natural places on the planet, just take it all in at your own pace. Sound good? What are you waiting for?

To book your luxury cruise contact one of our South America specialists on 1300 363 302.

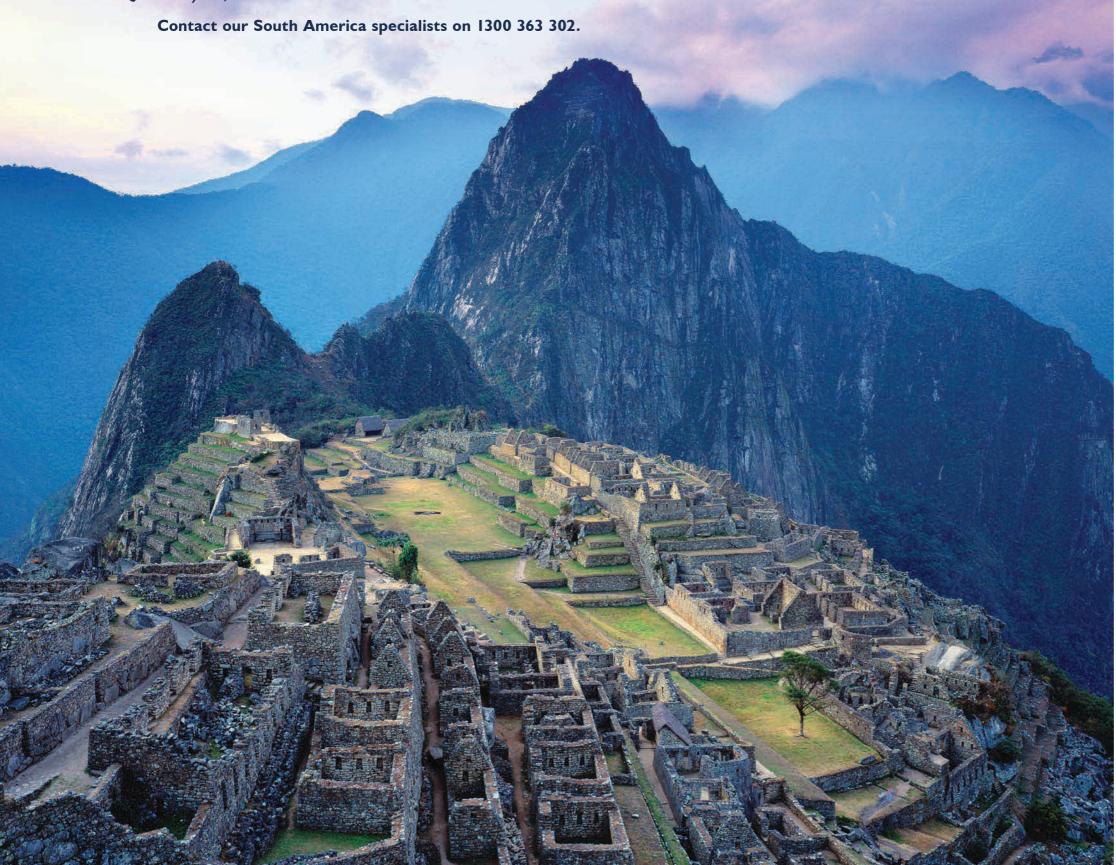








The 15th century "Lost City of the Incas" has one of the most impressive locations of any archaeological site in the world. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983, Machu Picchu (meaning "Old Mountain" in Quechuan) is 2,430m above sea level and is the most visited tourist destination in Peru.



WAS MACHU PICCHU EVER TRULY "LOST"?

Re-discovered in 1911 by American archaeologist Hiram Bingham, at the time the explorer was actually looking for Vilcabamba, the last refuge of the Incas in 1572. Over the last century it has become famous as the 'Lost City of the Incas', but in recent times there has been some debate as to whether Machu Picchu was ever "lost". It has been recorded that when Bingham arrived there were a number of peasant farmers living near the site.

HOW WAS IT BUILT?

One of the greatest man-made structures in the world the city is comprised of temples, royal houses and agricultural areas. Built in classic Inca style using polished dry stone the structures were constructed using a technique called ashlar. The stones were expertly cut and fitted together like puzzle pieces without using mortar. It is thought that each individual rock piece, some weighing more than 50 pounds (22.6 kilograms) was transported up the mountain without the assistance of wheels.

HUAYNA PICCHU AND THE SECRET TEMPLE

Just 400 daily permits are available to climb the impressive peak of Huayna Picchu (highest peak pictured left). Built into a cave, the Temple of the Moon is located on the far side of Huayna Picchu. The exact purpose of the temple is unclear, but with exquisite stonework it was thought to have been used as a ceremonial shrine or royal tomb.

HOW TO GET THERE?

The citadel can be reached by train from Cusco the historic capital of the Incan Empire only 80 kilometres away. There are three trains that run from Cusco to Machu Picchu Pueblo, the town that sits directly below the mountain stronghold. A 30 minute bus trip takes visitors up a winding road from the town to the ancient ruins.

Machu Picchu can also be reached on foot. The Classic Inca Trail is a 4-day trek that takes you through breathtaking mountain scenery to the ancient Incan city. There are only 500 permits issued each day and is a popular rite of passage amongst trekkers.





UNCOVERING COSTA RICA

or over 20 years UnCruise has been a pioneer in small ship cruising through Alaska's pristine Inside Passage. Their passion for remote adventure and immersive experiences has led them to other destinations around the world, and in 2020 Natural Focus will join them in promoting their cruises in Central America.

A diverse and beautiful landscape, Central America offers incredible culture, wildlife, wilderness and adventure both on land and at sea. We are very excited to promote combines the best of both the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Panama. Enjoy spectacular snorkelling opportunities in some of the world's best dive sites as well as sensational hikes along pristine beaches and lush jungles buzzing with monkeys and macaws.

Natasha Redondo, one of our senior South & Central America specialists recently experienced their Costa Rica & Panama adventure that allows guests to explore Costa Rica's rich biodiversity in depth.

"I was lucky enough to travel on the Safari Voyager, a small 66 guest vessel perfect for adventure cruising. As soon as I boarded the ship and began talking to my fellow passengers there was a real sense of excitement in the air.

It was during this first afternoon the words 'cocktail hour' took on a new meaning. The cocktails themselves were tantalising (thanks to Leigh the expert bartender) but it's at this time when you find out about what amazing adventures the guides have in store for you the next day. It could be a bird watching walk, a more vigorous hike or even a boat ride. There is something for everyone.



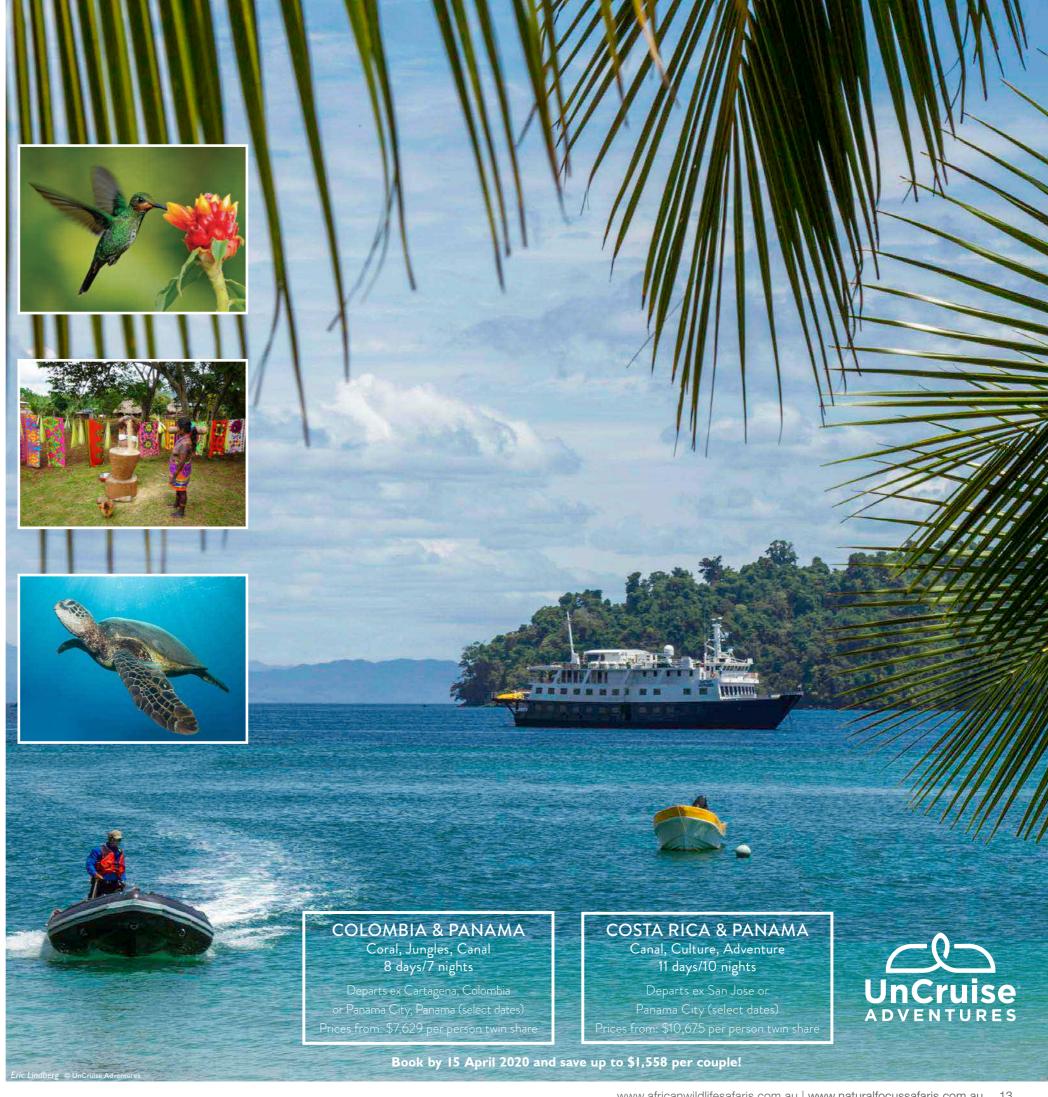
UnCruise's Colombia & Panama cruise that
The cabins are very comfortable and feature panoramic windows whilst the sundeck is the perfect spot to search for dolphins and other aquatic life. The crew were especially helpful and the service was terrific particularly when it came to dining options. They went above and beyond to ensure everything went smoothly.

> The guides were all highly experienced, knowledgeable and passionate. We were constantly amazed by how they managed to spot wildlife out of nowhere. When we encountered a tapir (a rare herbivorous mammal similar to a pig) on a hike my guide Erica was as excited as I was! To see the guides so enthusiastic it really shows how much they love their job, and makes the overall experience so special.

Visiting an indigenous Embera Village on the remote Mogue River in Panama's Darien Jungle was a very memorable day. The passion they have for their culture was intoxicating. What I enjoyed most was spending time with the children, listening to their stories and songs.

The marine excursions were just as thrilling. Snorkelling off the coastline of Panama's Coiba Island with schools of colourful fish species and turtles was an experience I'll never forget."





MEXICO - FULL OF SURPRISES

Taleen Gaidzkar, one of our most experienced South America specialists, with a travel diary that would make any blogger jealous, explores Mexico and found it was a country full of surprises.

"It is an odd way to start this article by saying Mexico had never been a 'bucket list' item for me. For starters it's usually in the news for all the wrong reasons - drug cartels, mass murders, gang violence. Why would anyone want to go there? I travelled there last October for 3 weeks and found that there is so much more to see that I am planning on returning soon.

My first surprise was Mexico City, a sprawling city of over 25 million. I had a few concerns on travelling as an independent, single female. However, from the beginning I needn't have worried. There are security guards and police almost everywhere making the place totally safe. I found myself walking the streets at night from theatres and restaurants back to my hotel without any care. Aside from the safety aspect, I was also amazed at how clean, green and eco-friendly the city was. There were bike lanes on major roads and hardly any graffiti in the underground metro.

The National Museum of Anthropology is one of the best museums in the world showcasing the Zapotec, Aztec and Mayan cultures as well as the colonial Spanish conquest. The UNESCO World Heritage Teotihuacan pyramids are a must see and a fun way to experience them is by hot air balloon. Cruising over the pyramids is a special treat and you really get to appreciate their size.

There are also many beautiful colonial cities bursting with culture and architectural history such as San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato and Guadalajara. Each city offers something different and the café culture in Guanajuato echoed that of Melbourne!

The Yucatan Peninsula is a fascinating mix of temples and beaches. I visited the Mayan temples of Uxmal and Chichen Itza, swam in some cenotes (underground pools of cool water), lazed on the beach in Tulum and enjoyed the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea.

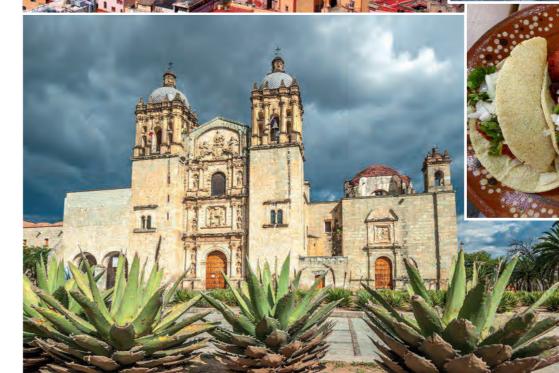
The indigenous city of Oaxaca again offers something special and is alive with local markets full of colour and great aromas from the many stalls selling tacos. It is also famous for the annual 'Day of the Dead' festival (31 October - 02 November) which honours deceased relatives with ancient rituals, colourful costumes and spectacular parades. It is this three day festival that drives me to return to Mexico later in the year."



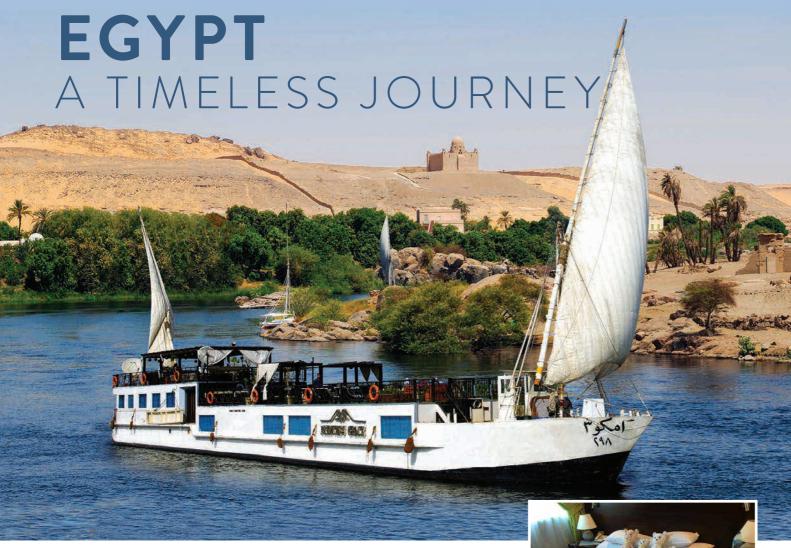
















By Anne-Marie Zambelli

Arriving in the modern day city of Luxor, once ancient Thebes, we were surrounded by monuments and temple complexes that would leave us with more questions than answers! Excitement mounted as we boarded our Dahabiya, a traditional sailing boat that was to be our home for the next five nights.

Aptly named "The Princess Grace", this charming and stylish cruiser offers just eight air-conditioned cabins with large picture windows and private bathrooms. The first of many fabulous meals was enjoyed on the spacious sundeck before we set out to explore the famous temples of Karnak and Luxor. As we stood in awe of past civilisations, our timeless journey of Egypt had begun.

The Valley of the Kings on the west bank has to be seen to be believed! This extraordinary burial ground houses many tombs of kings and noblemen, most notably that of Tutankhamun and Ramses the Great. Cut deep into the limestone the tombs have long corridors



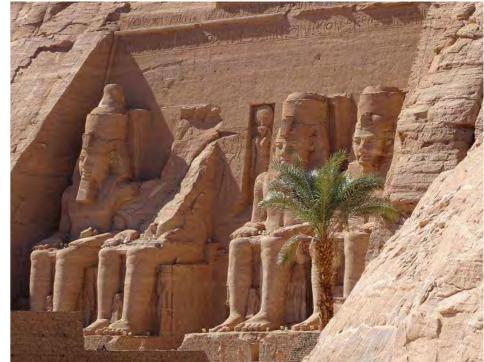


adorned with exquisite paintings and hieroglyphs leading down into a burial chamber. The further you walked the better preserved the tomb, as distance protected them not only from being destroyed by raiders but by the harsh desert climate. This was a definite highlight for me as the experience of standing in the tomb of a pharaoh is difficult to describe.

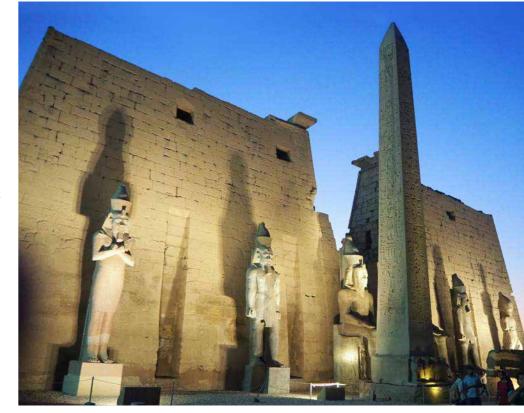
Our days on board our Dahabiya were fun filled and magical as we sailed past rural towns, farms and fishing villages. The friendly and attentive crew could not do enough for us and we were treated each day to tasty and traditional creations made by three very enthusiastic chefs. Sunsets were made even more glorious as we sat on deck with a cocktail in hand, mesmerised by the passing scene. Our clever cabin attendant surprised us with his skill in folding towels into animals, the results of which greeted us each evening as we retired to our cabin for the night.

Abu Simbel is a must see! Just over half an hour's flight from Aswan, this impressive monument built by Ramses II in the 13th century BC was the dazzling culmination of our Egyptian journey. The four massive gigantic statues of the pharaoh himself guard the outside of his beautifully preserved temple built into rock and positioned in full view of Lake Nasser. It is said that Ramses Il built the temple as a powerful reminder to the Nubian people of his greatness. Nearby he constructed a smaller temple in honour of his favourite and first Queen, Nefertari. In the 1960's, the temples were threatened by flooding from the construction of the Aswan High Dam, so in a project that spanned almost four years they were carefully moved block by block 65 metres up and 200 metres back from the lake onto an artificial hill.

There is so much to love about Egypt, from its warm and friendly people to fantastic food and its glorious treasures. At no time did it feel unsafe travelling around this fascinating country so do yourself a favour and start planning your own journey now.









GOVERNORS' CAMPS

AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION





Since the 1970's Governors' Camps have been pioneering safaris and today they have 7 award winning camps and lodges in envied locations. They offer their guests transformative experiences in some of Kenya's most precious wilderness and wildlife locations.

In the heart of the famous Masai Mara is Governors' Camp itself, which was once reserved exclusively for colonial governors. Today, the camp remains one of Africa's best, with 37 large, bright riverside guest tents. Nearby are 3 other smaller camps: intimate Little Governors with 17 luxury tents, exotic II Moran with 10 tents, and Governors' Private with 8 tents (exclusive use only).

On beautiful Lake Naivasha near the bird-filled Rift Valley lakes is Loldia House, a gorgeous early settler farm house. Here guests can experience the Kenya of old, with its gentle pace of life; drive, walk or horseback ride among the herds of plains game which live alongside farm animals.

Governors' newest property, opening in April 2020, is Mugie House on the Lakipia plateau north west of Mount Kenya. The main house and nine stone cottages are built on a hill with sweeping views and a waterhole visited by elephants. Guests can enjoy open log fires, fabulous cuisine, an infinity pool, and a wide range of activities to experience the areas unique game.

Or get away from it all at Mfangano Island Camp, a luxury, island hideaway on the shores of Lake Victoria. This is a place to soothe the soul, where you can fish, swim, read and enjoy wonderfully fresh food sourced from the lakeside garden. Tropical gardens surround the 9 airy guest cottages with views of the lake and picturesque dhows.

To design your private safari with Governors' Camps please call one of our Kenya specialists on 1300 363 302

A SANCTUARY FOR THE SENSES



66lt was the perfect place to end a safari in Tanzania, good for The 17 recently refurbished guest cottages each has its own individual the soul and the senses! The food was the best we had and hospitality second to none. There is a special experience waiting for everyone at Gibb's Farm." Anne-Marie Zambelli AWS GM

A lush paradise on the slopes of the Ngorongoro Crater this historic Apart from safaris to the nearby national parks, some of Africa's finest, 1920's coffee plantation is much more than a base for safaris; it is a destination in itself. Guests can relax in peaceful and beautiful surrounds and experience the age-old rhythms of a working Tanzanian farm.

Sustainable and organic the farm has a vegetable and herb garden, fruit trees, dairy, piggery, flower garden and coffee plantation. Guests So leave time in your itinerary for an extra day or two at Gibb's can help milk a cow, collect eggs, pick coffee and enjoy fabulous meals prepared from the farm's own produce.

style, whilst the two, 2 bedroom farm houses are perfect for families or guests travelling together. All have a restful, classic décor, indoor bathrooms, outdoor showers, sitting areas and a private terrace.

there are also opportunities for local walks, cycling, unique guided walks along the rim of the famous Ngorongoro Crater, and visits to local villages and schools. You can even join a baking class or watch the artist-in residence at work.

Farm to make the most of this remarkable piece of East Africa.







MALAMALA IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WILDLIFE



MalaMala Game Reserve has three safari camps, each with their own style and each situated on the Sand River.

Legendary MalaMala Camp is one of the oldest lodges in the area and houses extraordinary mementos of the early days of safaris, with rare photographs and old maps. This classic style family-friendly lodge has 19 thatched rooms and suites, a central dining and sitting room, huge outdoor deck for relaxing and wildlife viewing, an air-conditioned library, wine cellar, outdoor deck, swimming pool and fitness room.

Intimate Malamala Sable Camp has just 7 opulent suites and a 2-bedroom villa known as the "Lion's Den"! This beautiful camp has an elegant dining room, lounge, library and safari

bar, all air-conditioned. There is a wide outdoor deck overlooking the river and a traditional reed "boma" for evening meals around the fire. Guests can relax in the filtered swimming pool as well as take advantage of facilities at nearby Malamala Camp.

Reviving the magic of a bye-gone era, Malamala Rattray's Camp is a romantic and sumptuous lodge with elegant guest areas, infinity pool and 8 air-conditioned luxury suites with private plunge pools. An exclusive gameviewing experience is ensured, with a maximum of four guests per safari vehicle, a flexible schedule and the services of an experienced and proficient ranger who will serve as your guide and host, offering a level of service second to none.

To book your MalaMala safari please contact one of our Africa specialists on 1300 363 302.



"Over the past 10 years I've travelled the world documenting wildlife for National Geographic but nothing has compared to what MalaMala has to offer. Nowhere in Africa can the scenic beauty and wildlife behaviour be remotely compared to MalaMala in any aspect and it's hands down the most remarkable place I have ever filmed in." Russell MacLaughlin of Nat Geo Wild,

We've known it for years, but why exactly is South Africa's MalaMala Game Reserve so highly esteemed by wildlife lovers and photographers?

With a history dating back to 1927 today's MalaMala is the largest Big Five private game reserve in the country, covering 33 000 acres. It has an unmatched location between the Sabi Sand Reserve and the life-giving Sand River in the west, and a 19 km unfenced boundary with the Kruger National Park in the east. Wildlife moves freely from the 4 million acres east of the Sand River, through MalaMala to the river and back again, resulting in two way traffic across the reserve.

Malamala was the first game reserve to transition from hunting to conservation, and 50 years of photographic safaris means many generations of animals have got used to game drive vehicles. Admirable environmental policies implemented over a long period of time has resulted in prolific abundance of tertiary grasses which attract herbivores, and in turn attracts predators. With only 3 camps on the reserve there is low vehicle density and expert rangers follow strict protocols when viewing animals to make sure the game is relaxed and the environment protected.





CAPE TOWN'S AMAZING GRACE





Perfectly positioned on a private quay between the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and the yacht marina, the 5 star Cape Grace is in a class of its own. Wonderfully stylish with elegant decor and gorgeous furniture, it is also warm and welcoming, with a relaxed atmosphere and friendly, helpful staff.

Beautiful fabrics and bespoke pieces tell the story of the city's history whilst displays of endemic proteas and fynbos weave in the region's unique botany. Each of the 120 individually decorated rooms has views over the bustling working harbour, the marina or towards majestic Table Mountain. Facilities include a fine dining restaurant, pool, fitness centre, spa and thoughtful complimentary services like their Cape wine experience, fresh flowers, personally selected books and special activities for children.

One of our product team, Hany Elkatouri, who recently stayed at the Cape Grace loved everything about this exceptional hotel:

"From the moment you walk into the Cape Grace you know you're in a special place. The entrance is as beautiful as it is inviting. We had exceptional service from all the staff, who knew our names and were interested in our daily activities. I loved their complimentary chauffeur service if you needed to get to dinner or around Cape Town. Nowhere can beat its perfect and exclusive location, the high end service of the staff and the view of Table Mountain."













Indian Ocean Island 2,000kms from

First discovered by Arab & Malay

Colonised by Dutch, French, British Home of the long-extinct Dodo bird Famed for turquoise waters & white

Renowned for sumptuous cuisine Best time to visit Sep - Nov

sandy beaches

SEVENTH HEAVEN

Ajewel in the heart of the Indian Ocean, the tropical paradise of Mauritius is an exotic holiday destination and an ideal stopover before or after an African safari. Michael Fitzgerald one of our senior Africa specialists recounts his 7 days on this idyllic island:

"For our winter getaway the flights with Air Mauritius worked superbly. From Melbourne we flew to Perth and before we knew it we were enjoying the warm hospitality of Air Mauritius en route to our island holiday. The connections worked just as well on our return. Air Mauritius fly twice weekly between Perth & Mauritius with seemless connections from the east coast with Virgin Australia.

Known for its sunkissed beaches there is plenty more to see on the island! The capital of Port Louis is fascinating to explore, while surrounding towns are full of quaint markets selling local products.

The north coast villages such as Grand Baie offer boutique shopping, lively bars and excellent cuisine bursting with flavour.

I stayed at two resorts, Paradis and Trou aux Biches, both members of the impressive Beachcomber portfolio. Both hotels were terrific and Beachcomber has something for everyone, catering for families, couples and honeymooners. The food was phenomenal and drew on many influences from the island's storied past, including French, English and traditional Creole cuisine. There are both à la carte and buffet dining options and no shortage of fresh fish and tropical fruits.

The vast array of land and water based activities offered is a hallmark of the Beachcomber resorts. Water skiing, snorkelling, windsurfing, mountain biking and tennis are all on offer whilst golfers have a number of world class courses to choose from. It was just a heavenly 7 day escape."



| By Jeremy Cameron |

66When I first went to Africa, I was just 9 years old. Despite being a young kid from Australia, I had some idea of what to expect, having grown up listening to many of my parents' amazing stories.

My last safari was in 2007 but this was the first time travelling to Africa with just my brother lames, and for both of us our first visit to Zimbabwe. Being November and the end of the dry season the earth was bare, water was limited and many animals were finding the conditions tough while waiting for the first rains. However, on arrival our safari vehicle was greeted by a huge rain storm that left us soaking from head to toe. Though a little uncomfortable for us, the heavy showers were a welcome relief

for the thirsty wildlife and the rain made everything come to life.

On our way to our camp we came across some lions. The smells and sounds of the pride brought back some old memories. Wilderness Safaris operate 3 unfenced camps in this private concession meaning animals can roam freely in and out of camp. I enjoyed the old world charm of Davison's Camp and the feeling of being close to nature. This was particularly true when a male lion strolled through camp one evening and continued to call loudly throughout the

night. It certainly made for a good

My favourite animal has to be the

elephant. It's difficult to describe the feeling you get when a 13ft tall, 5-tonne male elephant walks within a few metres of your vehicle. A rush of adrenaline runs through your body as you stare in awe of its immense size and strength as it moves past as quiet as a mouse. It is this feeling I love and one that makes Africa unique. Being in the African bush again, wind in your face and driving on dirt roads in search of wildlife – there is nothing else like it and I know it won't be another 12 years until I go back again."

Jeremy is African Wildlife Safaris' Graphic Designer. He and James visited Wilderness Safaris' Linkwasha concession in the famous Hwange National Park.

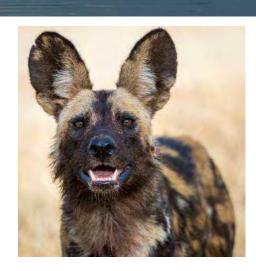
One of our Africa specialists, Georgia Cowling recently explored the renowned World Heritage listed Mana Pools National Park in Zimbabwe:

"Mana Pools had been on my bucket list since I first went to Africa and it didn't disappoint. It is one of the most beautiful places I've ever been and looking across the Zambezi River to the escarpment was a view I never tired of. Famous for the endangered wild dog, I was lucky enough to see them on multiple occasions, including a recently translocated pack from Hwange National Park. The aim is to increase the current wild dog population in Mana Pools and lessen the threat of humanwildlife conflict in Hwange. Another time, the dogs played in front of camp while we were having brunch only to be chased away by a few thirsty elephants that had wandered down to the river. It was surreal to watch and a script you couldn't write.



A PERFECT PLACE

MANA POOLS



Both camps (Chikwenya and Nyamatusi) that I stayed at were positioned by the river with exceptional views but set far enough back that the wildlife felt comfortable coming down for a drink. In fact, the elephants were so comfortable they didn't even mind coming into camp. I was in my outdoor shower at Chikwenya when an elephant poked its head through the bushes next to me! Mana Pools offers some of the best canoeing and walking experiences within Africa".







OTSWANA

A LAND OF CONTRAST

Our award-winning Botswana safari operator Desert & Delta recently hosted two lucky members of our team on safari. Kate Witton, our Reservations Manager and Eva Weihe our Product Team Leader who was over the moon about her first visit to Africa.

Kate was amazed by the diversity she encountered: "The locations of the lodges are incredibly varied: sandy deserts, lagoons and waterways, open savanna and beautiful forests. This variety also extends to the wildlife with enormous herds of elephant, graceful giraffe, dazzling zebra, pods of hippos, beautiful birds and big cats galore, just to name a few. The variety didn't stop there - on this safari we travelled by open 4WD vehicle, motor boat, traditional mokoro (local canoe), light aircraft and even a helicopter – without doors! To complete the experience I did a walking safari hoping to get a closer look at the smaller things. To my surprise we came

across two male lions while on foot. It was a surreal experience to be 100 metres from these majestic beasts who were not fazed by our presence as they rested in the shade."

Eva had always wanted to see elephants in the wild and she got her wish: "My absolute highlight was on a boat cruise in the Okavango when we were right next to some elephants crossing the water

and the biggest one turned around and looked right at us from only a few metres away! I don't think you can describe how special it feels to look into the eye of one of your favourite animals in the wild until you experience it for yourself."



ULTIMATE AFRICA

ONLY TWO ROOMS LEFT

EXCLUSIVE SMALL GROUP SAFARI TO BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

DEPARTS MAUN MONDAY 16 NOV

Our Botswana 'guru' Anne-Marie in Maun, a quaint frontier town at the edge Zambelli will once again be leading a small group tour to this most sought after safari destination. Annie lived and worked in Botswana in the 1990's and considers it her second home. A wildlife aficionado she knows many of Africa's prime wildlife areas and safari camps intimately.

With carefully chosen camps and designed to take advantage of summer season pricing, this special 14 day/13 night itinerary commences

of Botswana's famous Okavango Delta, and finishes in Victoria Falls.

Everything is included: light aircraft transfers, full board accommodation, all drinks (premium brands excluded), game drives in open 4WD vehicle, park fees, laundry and gratuities. Only your international flights are not included.

With just two rooms remaining, call now to reserve your place. 1300 363 302

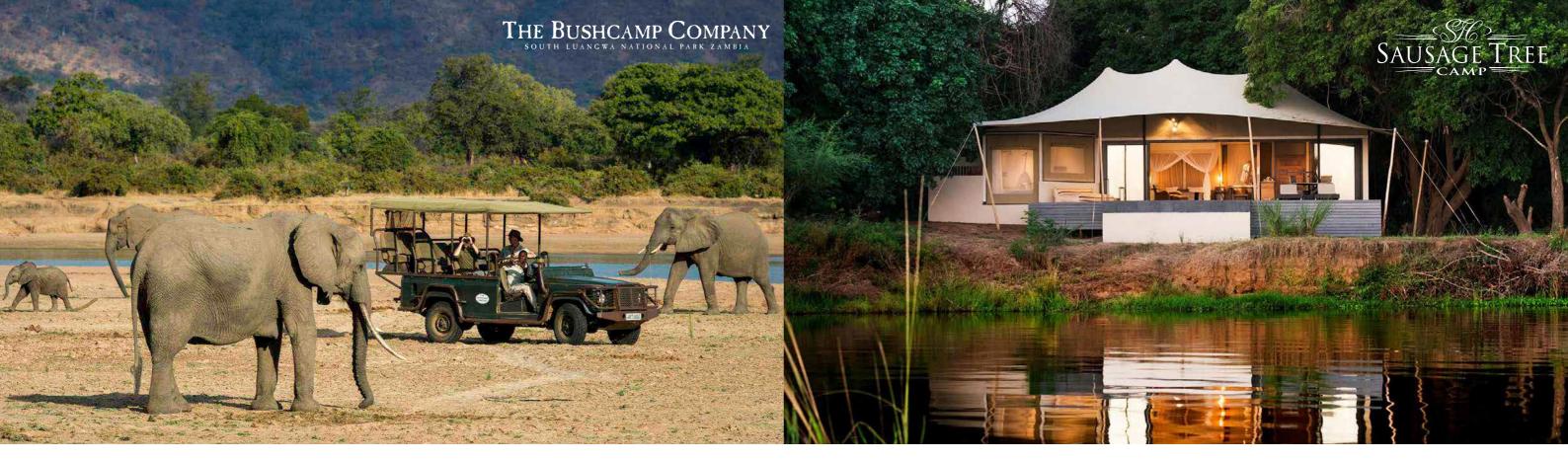


AUD\$22,950 per person twin share. (Single travellers on request)









or a true African safari full of glorious adventure, unexpected wildlife sightings and fun experiences, Zambia is difficult to beat. So last October Steve and I were excited to be back in the South Luangwa Valley, exploring the remote south of the national park with the Bushcamp Company.

Being the end of the dry season the park was brown and dry and the animals were drawn to the remaining lagoons and pools of the Kapamba River. Herds of elephants came to cool off in the lagoon below our bush camp, and crocodiles warmed up on the sandy shore - one eye open for unwary impala. We saw no other people but those

at our camp, and felt totally immersed in the wilderness.

In the cool of the early morning we set out by landcruiser with our guide and found leopards, wild dogs and lions, herds of buffalo and lofty giraffe. On our night drives we found strange creatures like porcupines, their quills swaying like spiky crinolines, as well as genet, civet and leopards on the prowl.

The Luangwa Valley is the home of walking safaris and we loved the chance to get out of the vehicle and experience the bush on foot. Following single-file behind our guide and armed ranger we encountered elephants and buffalo, peered into honey badger dens, learned all about ant lions and surprised a leopard sleeping in a tree.

From our arrival in Lusaka we were well looked after by the very professional staff from Zambian Ground Handlers, who helped us through airports and drove us to and fro, always with cheerful smiles and nothing too much trouble. Then the wonderful crew from the Bushcamp Company took care of our every need, with fabulous meals, scrumptious brunches in the bush and decadent afternoon teas. One evening at sunset our guides surprised us with sundowners set up in the middle of the lagoon, illuminated by hanging lanterns. We sat with our feet in the cool water as the sun set red on the horizon and the stars came out in the inky sky.

From the wilds of South Luangwa we flew south to the Lower Zambezi National Park and another incredible wildlife experience on this legendary river. Arriving at a bush airstrip we were transferred by boat upriver to luxurious Sausage Tree Camp, which has

an enviable spot above the Zambezi.

The open dining and lounge area, outdoor deck and 25m swimming pool overlook sand islands where elephants are always on parade and hippos wallow in the deep water. The camp sleeps only 18 guests, and there are enough guides to offer private guiding at no extra cost. Each luxurious suite has its own plunge pool. Nearby sister camp Potato Bush is a quiet haven perfect for families with 4 tented suites.

After trying our hand at fishing we took a canoe trip down the nearby Chifungulu Channel, renowned as the best canoeing experience on the river. And it didn't disappoint. We drifted past elephants and hippo just metres away, and huge old crocodiles lazing on the banks which paid us no attention. We saw jewelled malachite kingfishers, black winged storks and darters with their glossy wings spread out to dry. As we emerged from the channel into the river a family of elephants crossed in front of us. Then it was time for sundowners and the boat trip home in the cool evening air.

RUESAFARI

This was definitely a safari to remember and in fact it was so good we're going back this year in August.

SENSATIONAL ZAMBIA

Escorted small group tour Ex Livingstone 26 August 2020

Join Steve on a 15-day safari of some of Zambia's most prestigious wildlife areas staying at a selection of remote and exclusive camps. Expect expert guides, game drives, exciting walking and canoeing safaris away from busy tourist areas for an unrivalled safari experience.

Only 2 places left!

For more information call Steve on: 1300 363 302 or (03) 9249 3708







AUTHENTIC NAMBIA





PACK FOR CONSERVATION

The Conservation Travel Foundation (CTF) is the philanthropic branch of Ultimate Safaris. Partnering with Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) they are involved in helping conserve Namibia's unique population of desert adapted black rhino, the only population of its kind in the world. As part of their efforts to get Rhino Tourism to contribute towards the costs of rhino conservation CTF launched the PACK FOR CONSERVATION programme in 2018. Through an online portal guests travelling to Namibia can purchase field uniforms and gear for the Rhino Ranger Incentive Program. The package is delivered to CTF in Windhoek in time for your arrival and CTF then facilitate the handover of the uniforms and gear to SRT (in your presence if this fits with your safari plans).

For details on how this project works please see www.ultimatesafaris.na/ pack-for-conservation

or an intimate Namibian safari with a light footprint and wonderful 'back to nature' experiences there is no better outfitter than Ultimate Safaris. Deep into the unspoiled landscapes of this desert land, they conduct private safaris for individuals and small groups, providing a high degree of personal service, expert guiding and a range of accommodation from luxury lodges to intimate seasonal camps. Their journeys are carefully researched and planned, offering their guests life-enriching experiences and

Ultimate Safaris also offer some scheduled departures. Their 10 day Namibia Under Canvas goes to the heart of what a safari is, relinquishing luxury for an immersive and meaningful experience. Most of the accommodation is semi-permanent, without the frills of

safaris that are educational, insightful and fun.

a permanent tented camp or lodge, but with the intimacy that can only be achieved by travelling to wild, remote and private places. There is still a strong focus on ensuring guests' comfort and you will be accompanied by a knowledgeable guide and looked after by an experienced camp crew.

Highlights include the world renowned AfriCat Foundation, Onguma Private Game Reserve, the famous Etosha National Park, climbing the world's highest sand dunes at Sossusvlei, star gaze on the Namib Tsaris Conservancy and remote Damaraland, where you will search for desert adapted elephants and track endangered black rhino with the Save The Rhino Trust.

For more information on a Namibia safari, contact one of our Africa specialists on 1300 363 302.

LIFE-ENRICHING JOURNEYS

Ultimate Safaris aim to tread lightly, and this philosophy extends to their camps which are built to ensure sustainability on all levels. They hark back to the original safari, with the emphasis on being close to the wild. Two of their camps carry the lowest environmental footprint of any camps in Namibia. They are barely visible from miles around, are 100% solar powered and have no wifi. Both of these camps are for exlusive use only and perfect for families or groups of 4 or more.

For more details please contact our Africa experts on 1300 363 302

CAMP SOSSUS

Built within a natural amphitheatre to withstand harsh desert winds, this fully sustainable camp is shaded by rock walls and recycled metal roofs. The area is a refuge for desert game like oryx, springbok, zebra and giraffe; also leopard and cheetah. Guests also find refuge in the 8 stylishly furnished tents with ensuite open-air bathrooms and shaded day-beds. There is also a 'star bed' for wonderfully starry nights. The famous sand dunes of Sossussvlei aren't far away.





HUAB UNDER CANVAS

This semi-permanent camp is hidden in a grove of mopane trees on a tributary of the Huab River in the heart of Damaraland. Like secret tree houses the 8 guest tents are on raised wooden platforms connected by walkways, and have open air en suite bathrooms. Share stories of your adventures around the campfire, cool off in the plunge pool and enjoy dinners under the stars. The area is perfect for tracking rare black rhino and desert elephant with expert guides.





SENSATIONAL SRILANKA

sensational mix of pristine beaches, unique wildlife, timeless ruins and rich culture this tiny island nation in the Indian Ocean offers a diversity few countries can match.

Uga Escapes is one of Sri Lanka's leading luxury eco-hotel operators. With five boutique properties in their portfolio, each hotel offers a different landscape to explore. Guests can expect the same level of personalised service, mouthwatering cuisine and luxurious accommodation, and it's even possible to experience most of Sri Lanka's highlights whilst staying exclusively at their award-winning hotels.

Over the last few years Sri Lanka has become one of Restored or constructed using environmentally friendly, the world's most popular holiday destinations. With a biodegradable materials each hotel follows their "back to nature" philosophy. Under this approach the company has continued to plant trees and other fauna to reduce their carbon footprint.

> Continuing to go above and beyond there are many sustainable, green practices in place. Solar energy and bio gas are used where possible, clay or glass instead of plastic, LED lights are installed in the rooms and they even have a water-treatment plant in place.



ULAGALLA

A gem amongst the Anuradhapura hotels Ulagalla is where Uga Escapes all started. The completely renovated 150 year old mansion is surrounded by 58-acres of lush gardens. Just I hours' drive from the UNESCO World Heritage rock fortress of Sigiriya it is the perfect place to experiences Sri Lanka's heritage.



CHENA HUTS

Hidden in a world of scenic splendour the 14 luxurious private pool huts are spread across 7 acres of lush jungle and golden sand dunes. Bordering Yala National Park, guests enjoy personalised safaris exploring the region with experienced rangers.



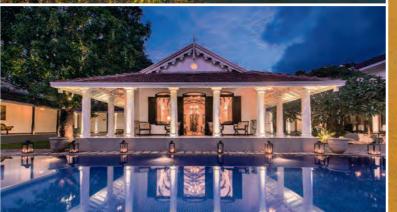
UGA BAY

If it's a beach escape then there is no place better than Uga Bay, situated on one of Sri Lanka's most beautiful east coast beachfronts. Outside of exquisite dining options, guests can make use of the decadent spa or enjoy snorkelling the sapphire blue waters of Passekudah Bay.



JUNGLE BEACH

Another beachfront property, Jungle Beach incorporates the environment into its design giving it the feeling of a lavish tree house. Situated near Trincomalee the resort blends adventure and sightseeing together.



RESIDENCE

One of the most lavish hotels in the heart of Colombo, Residence is a converted 19th century historic townhouse that offers guests a secluded position to explore the bustling city.

Whether it's a city stay, cultural adventure or a beach getaway Uga Escapes offers a unique experience for every traveller.



To build your perfect Sri Lanka itinerary contact our travel specialists on 1300 363 302.

KHUTZEYMATEEN

Peached by seaplane from British Columbia's Prince Rupert, the pristine Khutzeymateen is Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary. Within the traditional territory of the Tsimshian people the lush mountain landscape is home to a healthy population of grizzly bears. Bald eagles, seals and a plethora of seabirds frequent the area, whilst during

July/September humpback whales are also a regular sight. Built on the banks of the inlet and blending in with its surroundings the Khutzeymateen Wilderness Lodge is the only lodge in the region. Off the beaten track and far out of reach from major population centres it is a true wilderness experience with access strictly controlled.



amie Hahn has lived and worked in the Khutzeymateen for over 20 years. He is the owner and guide of the lodge and is now living his childhood dream:

"I fell in love with the Khutzeymateen when I was working as a manager for BC Parks on the North Coast. Every winter I counted the days until spring, when I could return to the Khutzeymateen and spend time with the local Indigenous Rangers setting up the ranger station and observing grizzlies.

When an opportunity arose to buy a rustic lodge from an old client in the Khutzeymateen, I immediately made an offer that was accepted, beginning my dream journey.

It was harder than I ever imagined, but I had plenty of support from friends and family who helped me rebuild the entire camp from the floorboards up. Now after 5 years the lodge has 6 comfortable guest bedrooms with 3 shared bathroom facilities and a sauna.

I never get tired of taking guests out on the water in search of bears. It's a joy to see the excitement in my clients' eyes when they get to witness a grizzly bear for the first time. The intimate moments we have with these wild creatures without disturbing them is what's so fantastic.

Being in the Khutzeymateen everyday allows us to follow their movements during the changing of the seasons. We get to know the bears' habits and personalities and share these wonderful experiences with our guests."

GORGEOUS GRIZZLIES

MEET THE BEARS

BRUTUS

Brutus has been roaming the Khutzeymateen for many years. Bear biologists who studied grizzlies during the early 1990s believe that he could be 35 years old - an incredible age for a bear in the wild. He is still doing his best to be a dominant male. During the mating season in May/June 2019 he swam across the inlet in hopes of mating with a female who is often in the bay across from the lodge!

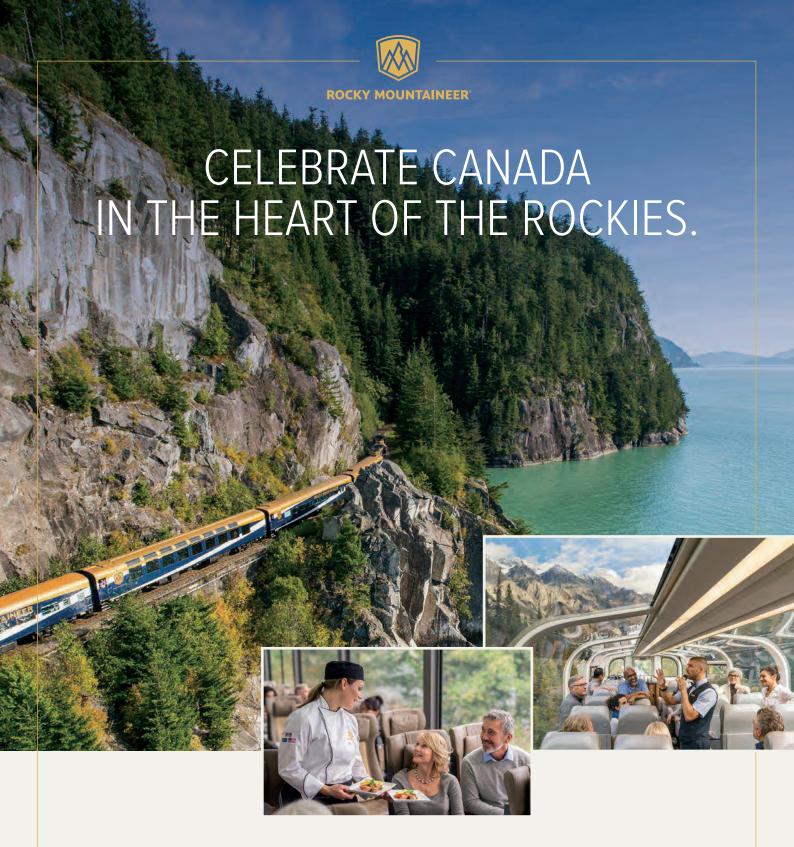




MAGGIE. SAMUEL AND ALFIE

Samuel and Alfie were born in the winter of 2016. After two summers honing their skills learning to dig for clams, swim and catch salmon the two young bears left their mother Maggie, but stayed together. Now sub-adults, Samuel and Alfie have spent more and more time apart, but every now and then come together for a play fight or just to sleep. It's still a magical moment to see them together.





Rocky Mountaineer is celebrating 30 amazing years of service, wonder and spirit of exploration. Join us for this special anniversary by celebrating your own milestone birthday, anniversary, or occasion onboard. Experience an adventure you won't soon forget on a luxurious glass-dome rail coach, meeting people from all over the globe, dining on delectable dishes and spending your days travelling through unimaginable landscapes.

For more information please contact Natural Focus on 1300 363 302 or visit www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au