

Safaris are full of adventure and spectacular views

BY MAX HARROLD, THE GAZETTE AUGUST 14, 2012



Extraordinary Journeys Africa is offering 25 per cent to 30 per cent off some unique trips. Witness the 3-million-strong migration of wildebeest as they roam the Serengeti, or go on safari in an open-roof 4x4 vehicle with experienced naturalist guides.

Photograph by: Offbeat Mara Safari Camp and EJ Africa

This column has been corrected from an earlier version.

The Extraordinary Journeys Africa touring company is offering a sale of 25 per cent to 30 per cent off on some of its trips now through November.

The six-night, seven-day Offbeat Kenyan Safari has a discounted rate of \$4,800 US per person, and includes three nights in the 9,700-hectare Laikipia Plateau, with its vast ranches and high plains, and three nights in the 1,800-square-kilometre Masai Mara, Kenya's renowned nature reserve with 500 species of birds, including ostrich, lark and sunbird.

The cost also covers flights within Kenya, "superior" accommodations, many meals, drinks and laundry and activities, including treks in open-roof 4x4 vehicles with experienced naturalist guides.

For more information about this trip, visit www.extraordinaryjourneys.net/blog/off-beat-kenyan-safari

Another trip on sale is the seven-night, eight-day Magnificent Migration Safari, for \$5,755 US per person, to Kenya and Tanzania starting in the Masai Mara.

The first four nights are spent at the Serian Mara Camp, a private tented camp owned by Alex Walker, a fourth-generation Kenyan and, according to the website, a "respected guide and well-known wildlife filmmaker."

Next is the Serengeti, where you get to witness the 3-million-strong migration of wildebeest as they roam the plains between Ngorongoro and Lake Victoria. For more information about this trip, visit www.extraordinaryjourneys.net/blog/magnificent-migration

Post-Olympic deals

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts in Europe is offering discounts of 33 per cent to 50 per cent after the Olympics are over in London on Sunday.

For example, the Savoy Hotel in London is offering 33 per cent off and the third night free for any room and every category booked from Monday to Sept. 5. There is a non-refundable first-night payment required upon booking. Non-discounted rates start at 275 pounds (approx. \$431) per room, per night. Visit www.fairmont.com/savoy-london for details or call 1-800-441-1414.

Sunwing discounts

The Sunwing flight and vacation company is having a Winter Grand Slam sale on all new bookings made by Aug. 31 for travel from Dec. 19 through Oct. 31, 2013. The sale applies to all the company's southern destinations, including Florida and Las Vegas, and on cruises. The sale means a couple gets a \$100 savings on their trip's taxes and a deposit requirement of \$50 instead of \$250 per person.

The company also offers its Price Drop Guarantee with a refund of up to \$400 per couple if the price of a booked vacation is reduced after booking. For details, visit www.sunwing.ca

Caribbean and Mexico

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean and Mexico resorts are offering their 100 Per cent Chance of Savings Event if you book by Aug. 31 for travel Tuesday through Dec. 15. The special means hotel rates are \$84-\$199 US per room, per night based on availability.

The participating properties include the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino, the CasaMagna Marriott Cancun Resort, the CasaMagna Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort and Spa, the Curacao Marriott Beach Resort and Emerald Casino, the Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort,

the Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino, the JW Marriott Cancun Resort and Spa and the St. Kitts Marriott Resort and the Royal Beach Casino.

For more information or to book, visit paradisebymarriott.com/100-percent-chance-of-savings use promotion code X32).

Coupons for attractions

Couponsforfun.com is a website with more than 300 discount coupons to some interesting, offbeat attractions in the United States. You don't have to sign up or pre-pay anything. You just print or download the coupons from the site.

You can get things like \$2 off the regular adult admission price to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill., or one free admission to the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

There are coupons to dinner theatres, riverboat cruises, tramways, zoos and aquariums in 21 states and Washington.

I'm told that "many of these unique and fun attractions can't be found on other discount websites because they have no promotional budgets (too small or non-profits). The participating attractions "do not pay to participate, but are encouraged to supply good offers." For details, visit couponsforfun.com.

mharrold@montrealgazette.com