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Adventures in Africa

- Adria Valdes



There's nothing quite like an African safari. It's an unforgettable experience that combines awe-inspiring landscapes and thrilling wildlife encounters with exclusive accommodations and gourmet cuisine. So whether your clients are safari aficionados or first-timers, we're pretty sure they'll love these options either way.

More Bang For Your Buck

Extraordinary Journeys (EJ Africa) is offering two free nights on its 8-day *Old World Luxury* safari, which encompasses Kenya's most remote areas. Regularly priced at \$6,000, a \$5,100 pp special rate—which translates into two free nights—is valid for bookings made for travel during the first three weeks of December.

The *Old World Luxury* journey begins at the **Offbeat Meru Camp** located on the Bisanadi River in the Meru National Park. At this luxury semi-permanent tented camp, guests will be able to enjoy day and evening game drives, take in spectacular views of the sunset from a hilltop vantage point and fish in one of the reserve's 13 rivers.

Other trip highlights include three days at **Sosian Ranch**, a restored house set within a 24,000-acre working ranch on the Laikipia plateau, where guests can learn about ranch life and horseback ride between game drives; and three days at the intimate Off Beat Mara tented camp in the Greater Maasai Mara, where visiting a rhino sanctuary and taking a hot air balloon ride are just some of the experiences available to guests. For more information, visit ejafrica.com.

"Picture" This

Terra Incognita Ecotours just announced a new photography tour that takes travelers to Rwanda and Kenya where they will learn how to capture wildlife on film. Led by *National Geographic* wildlife photographer, Kevin Schafer, this tour will give participants a chance to get up close to Africa's exotic wildlife.

On the first half of the trip, travelers will journey through Rwanda, including a visit to the Akagera National Park for classic game drives and a boat ride on Lake Ihema. They'll also take a tour of Rwanda's Genocide Museum and meet a veterinarian from the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project to hear about ongoing efforts to protect the endangered mountain gorilla. The second portion of the trip, meanwhile, includes an option excursion to the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya.

The Rwanda photography tour takes place Sept. 8-19, 2012. Rates run \$7,849 pp with a group size limit of 16 participants. A donation will also be made on behalf of each participant to the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. For more information, visit ecotours.com.

Cruising West Africa

For 2012, **Lindblad Expeditions** will offer a new *West African Odyssey: Exploring From South Africa to Morocco* itinerary. This 37-day journey aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* will travel through 16 countries including Luderitz, Namibia; Lobito and Benguela, Angola; Pointe Noire, Congo; Kribi, Cameroon; and Accra, Ghana, among others.

Rates start at \$28,480 pp dbl and the tour departs March 23, 2012. For more information, visit expeditions.com.

Five-Star South Africa

Lion World Tours is offering a 9-day package to South Africa with rates starting at \$1,999 pp, including international airfare.

The Cape Town *Whales & Wine* package includes accommodations in two five-star properties—**The Cellars-Hohenort** and **Marine Hotel Hermanus**—as well as six breakfasts, a picnic lunch at a local wine farm in the Hermanus area and dinner at The Cape Malay Experience, which serves traditional Cape Malay dishes.

Located in the pristine Constantia Valley, The Cellars-Hohenort boasts 52 luxury rooms and suites, each with views of the hotel's gardens and vineyard. Onsite amenities include a spa and salon, three pools, a tennis court and a Gary Player-designed putting and chipping green.

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Marine Hotel Hermanus, meanwhile, is a **Relais & Chateaux** hotel perched atop the cliffs in one of South Africa's most beautiful landscapes. The property offers some of the area's best land-based whale watching, where guests can catch glimpses of these amazing creatures right from their guestrooms.

For more information on the *Whales & Wine* package, visit lionworldtours.com.

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