

YOUR OWN PRIVATE ITALY THE ULTIMATE VILLA VACATION

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

UNDISCOVERED BEACHES

BRAZIL



LAST CHANCE
TO WIN A
\$10,000 TRIP

see p.36

2012 DESIGN AWARDS

Hotels, Restaurants, Tech,
Travel Gear, and More

1+1 FAMILY SPECIAL

Spring Getaways

0035

422
130
P110

#BXBDKJ *****CAR-RT LOT**C-012
#2592 6023 000 #
W/ES GENTIL
33 W 19TH ST FL 4
NEW YORK NY 10011-4333



STRATEGIES

TRAVEL SMARTER



UGANDA

A primate-centric adventure—including cameos by tree-climbing lions—with a stay at Bwindi Lodge in the Virunga Mountains.

Volcanoes Safaris
volcanoessafaris.com;
7 nights from
\$3,820

KENYA

A Samburu cultural experience and camping with wild camels booked days spent game-spotting in Laikipia and the Northern Frontier District.

Journeys by Design
journeysbydesign.com;
6 nights from
\$6,295

ZAMBIA

A camp-to-camp river voyage through Lower Zambezi National Park by canoe (for up-close encounters with hippos, buffalo, and elephants) culminating at Victoria Falls.

Explore Inc.
exploreafrica.net;
7 nights from
\$3,075

EXCLUSIVE SAFARIS

Some of our favorite operators have put together signature trips for T+L readers (prices reflect per person rates). Use the code **TLExclusive** to book any trip on this page.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Republic of the Congo

Uganda

Kenya

TANZANIA

A walking safari in the Selous Game Reserve, with views of the wildebeest migration and a night spent camping (and stargazing) in riverside tents.

Nomad Tanzania
nomad-tanzania.com;
7 nights from
\$5,850

NAMIBIA

Travel by land and air, ballooning over the Sossusvlei dunes and spotting black rhinos, desert elephants and cheetahs in Damaraland and Etosha National Park.

Geographic Expeditions
geoex.com;
10 nights from
\$3,145

Rwanda

Tanzania

Zambia

Malawi

Mozambique

BOTSWANA

Kids can spot meerkats, befriend Bushmen, and search for fossils at family-friendly Camp Kalahari.

Uncharted Africa Safari Co.
unchartedafrica.com;
4 nights from
\$816 for children,
\$1,632 for adults

Namibia

Botswana

Zimbabwe

South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

Take a vineyard and art tour of the Winelands, explore the Cradle of Humankind fossils, and end with a safari through Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve.

Cape Insights
capeinsights.com;
9 nights from
\$5,295

Safaris Made Easy

Whether you're a first-time visitor to Africa or an old safari hand, T+L helps you locate the trip—and value—that's right for you. Here's your handbook to the wild.

BY DOUGLAS ROGERS
WITH REPORTING BY NIKKI GOLDSTEIN

Illustrated by Kyungduk Kim

Masai warriors at the Masai Mara National Reserve.



A CLASSIC, WITH A TWIST

Tanzania

HIGHLIGHTS The **Serengeti**, site of the Great Migration; **Mount Kilimanjaro**, Africa's highest peak; the volcanic, game-rich **Ngorongoro Crater** basin; the UNESCO-listed Stone Town on **Zanzibar** island.

As with the Mara in Kenya, the Serengeti has been plagued with mass tourism and overcrowding. But innovative operators are taking travelers to the country's less visited corners. Last June luxe lodging company **Singita Grumeti Reserves** (singita.com) unveiled its first mobile safaris in its 340,000-acre concession near the Serengeti. Eco-camping outfitter Wayo Africa visits remote **Lake Eyasi**, a salt lake south of the park. In the undeveloped north, the government has chosen a few companies to build small lodges, including Nomad Tanzania's **Lamal Serengeti**, whose 12 rooms blend into rocky hills. Even farther-flung regions are coming to the fore: In the jungle-covered Mahale chimp habitat, Nomad's **Greystoke Mahale** has six thatched-roof huts on Lake Tanganyika. In 2010, **Amara Selous** (amara-tanzania.com) opened with 12 suites (all with private plunge pools) in southern Tanzania's untamed Selous Game Reserve.

WHEN TO GO

Jan Feb Mar Apr May **Jun**
Jul Aug Sep **Oct** Nov Dec

TOP OPERATORS

- ▶ **Aardvark Safaris** aardvarksafaris.com; 7 days from \$5,500.
- ▶ **George Mavroudis Safaris** gmsafaris.com; 11 days from \$11,000.
- ▶ **Nomad Tanzania** nomad-tanzania.com; 7 days from \$5,400.
- ▶ **Rothschild Safaris** rothschildsafaris.com; 7 days from \$2,380.
- ▶ **Wayo Africa** wayoafrika.com; 7 days from \$2,400.

Blue wildebeest Kenya's Amboseli National Park.



SAFARI EXPERT



Douglas Nagl

From Kenya

Company
 Cottars Safari Service (cottars.com)

First-Time Safari
 "The Mara is as close to *Out of Africa* as you can get, and perfect for novice safari-goers. Nowhere else can you see all of the Big Five in a matter of hours and watch the annual migration of more than a million wildebeests."

COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION

Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS The **Masai Mara National Reserve**, home to the Great Migration; the private game reserves of the **Laikipia** region; the vibrant capital, **Nairobi**.

Traditionally the most romantic of safari destinations, Kenya lost much of its luster over the past three decades because of congestion in its parks and rampant political corruption. But there's a fresh energy in the countryside, evident in a new breed of lodges—and lodge owners—that emphasize community and preservation. Proceeds from the eight-cottage **Olarro** (olarrokenya.com), on the Mara's eastern perimeter, go to build local schools, clinics, and wells. The seven-tent **Mara Plains Camp** (greatplainsconservation.com) operates game-viewing trips in a conservancy run in partnership with the Masai. **Segera Retreat** (wilderness-safaris.com), meanwhile, is set to open eight solar-powered villas on a reclaimed Laikipia cattle ranch in July. Family-owned properties are also playing up the personalities of their owners. In Laikipia, **Lemart's Camp** (lemartiscamp.com) is owned by Nairobi fashion designer Anna Trzebinski and her Samburu husband. Near Amboseli National Park, **Oi Donyo Lodge** (greatplainsconservation.com) is the revamped lodge of legendary conservationist Richard Bonham.

WHEN TO GO

Jan Feb Mar
 Apr May Jun
Jul Aug Sep
Oct Nov Dec

TOP OPERATORS

- ▶ **Big Five Tours & Expeditions** bigfive.com; 7 days from \$6,000.
- ▶ **Cottars Safari Service** cottars.com; 7 days from \$5,950.
- ▶ **Extraordinary Journeys** ejafrica.com; 7 days from \$3,500.
- ▶ **Journeys by Design** journeysbydesign.com; 8 days from \$7,395.
- ▶ **Micato Safaris** micato.com; 7 days from \$11,200.
- ▶ **Safari & Conservation Company** thesafariandconservationcompany.com; 9 days from \$4,997.

SAFETY NOTE

The U.S. State Department currently has a travel warning issued for Kenya. Check with your tour operator and hotels on what security precautions they take.