



Farside Africa

A Journey to Remember



NEW WILDLIFE LODGE IN MALAWI

Safari veterans, Robin Pope Safaris, are opening a stunning new luxury eco-lodge in Majete Wildlife Reserve in Southern Malawi this month. Mkulumadzi has eight bedrooms accessed by a footbridge across the Mkulumadzi River, and with its big luxurious beds, sunken baths and wide open decks, it has a classy, colonial feel. Although Malawi is not traditionally known for its wildlife, Majete offers a wonderful wilderness and game viewing experience. Think river cruises, dining under the stars, walking safaris and game drives to find elephant, black rhino, buffalo, zebra, sable and eland. A stay here combines really well with cycling around the tea plantations or enjoying Lake Malawi's treasure trove of water activities.

HOME NEWS & EVENTS

- **Come and see us** at the International Horse Trials at Hopetoun House outside Edinburgh on 30th & 31st July 2011
- **Log on to our website** to see our new homepage which we have recently re-vamped
- We are now using Facebook to update you on upcoming events, TV programmes worth watching, great photos and interesting news from the bush. What are you waiting for? **Click on 'Like'!**

TOP 5 FAMILY HOUSES

- 1: **Kwandwe Uplands Homestead, South Africa**
- 2: **Luangwa Safari House, Zambia**
- 3: **Matemwe Beach House, Zanzibar**
- 4: **Loisaba Cottage, Kenya**
- 5: **Ndomo House at Kaya Mawa, Lake Malawi**



WINE, WILD HORSES AND WILDERNESS

East and Southern Africa are pulling themselves proudly out of the recession with new camps opening up all over the place, and many from well-known safari operators so they promise to be excellent. We are also delighted to say that many camps and lodges have retained their 2011 prices for next year. Read on for more on the adventure of a horse riding safari, wild camping in Zambia and the wonderful work of theatre-inspired charity, SAFE.



WINE AND THE CITY

SUSANNAH IN CAPE TOWN AND THE WINELANDS

A huge fan of good food and wine, and an equal desire to earn it through exercise and fresh air, I couldn't have been in better territory than the Cape and its Winelands on my recent trip to South Africa. A tantalising mix of Europe and Africa, Cape Town has an alluring restaurant scene and cornucopia of activities within easy reach of its many stunning boutique-y hotels. I always find there's something strangely magnetic about cities on the sea – perhaps it's the sense of space and relaxed ambience brought in by the sea breeze, or maybe it's the class oozed by the gin palaces docked in the marina? A glass of wine and excellent light lunch overlooking the latter lulled us gently into holiday mode before we boarded our vessel to the fascinating Robben Island where Mandela and many other political prisoners spent time but, more significantly, used it to cultivate beliefs which were to profoundly influence history. Our guide was an ex-prisoner which only serves to bring home the reality and enormity of their story. Another day a guided hike takes us to the far side of Cape Point revealing a beautiful, wild paradise with endless sea views, where we learn about the native fynbos and see not another soul on our 3-hour walk. In contrast we strolled for hours along the café-lined Kloof and Long streets, among the mosques, curry aromas and coloured houses of Bo-Kaap, the foliage of Company Gardens and the shops of the V&A Waterfront. We felt we had earned the views from Table Mountain by climbing its steep slopes, though there is a cable car option. A more leisurely day took us for a delicious deli lunch in Simonstown via breathtaking coastal views before driving back past the penguins at Boulders Beach, all within easy reach of the city. With more time we could have also done a seaside cycle around Cape Town ending with a glass of fizz on the Waterfront, a street theatre-style history tour, Sex and Slaves in the City, or kayaked along the coast. We only just managed to resist the tempting beach of Camps Bay, on the outskirts of Cape Town, which brims with cafés and holiday-makers, in favour of some wine-tasting in the nearby Winelands. An hour from Cape Town, we opted to stay in Franschhoek so we could sample its celebrated restaurants by night, which are well worth it and excellent value for this calibre of cuisine. Its gallery- and café-lined streets ooze charm and pretty class, and it's a great base for visiting the nearby vineyards. We did a mix of the larger, better-known names and the smaller owner-run options which tell a more personal story. You can easily fill a few hours with cellar tours, wine tastings and lunch. Many vineyards have converted their original homesteads into idyllic accommodation, and for a bit of peace and quiet and good food, it's worth staying in one of these over the towns. And with hikes, cycling, golf, fishing and riding nearby, it doesn't all need to be about epicurean indulgence. However there's no doubt that it's the combination of good food and wine with first-class service, stylish accommodation and so much to do that makes Cape Town and the Winelands such a perfect holiday destination.



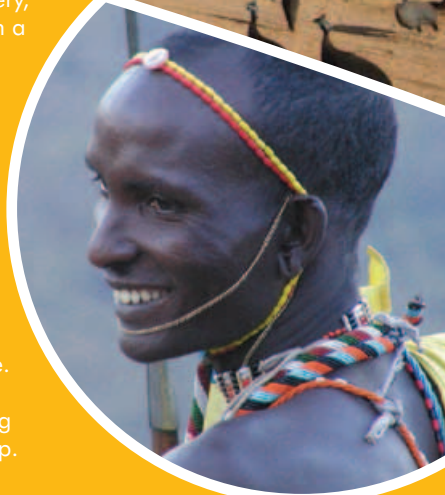


SADDLE UP FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF SAFARI

Sitting astride a horse on safari gives you a whole new perspective of the wildlife in Africa. You are really part of the action, getting so close to some of the animals and feeling like you are at one with them. One minute you might be cantering across plains with buffalo or swimming across a river, another just sitting quietly while your mount grazes among giraffe or elephant. Most riding safaris are over a few days, often moving between areas and staying in different camps every few nights, though from some lodges you can go out by the day. For most riding safaris you need to be an experienced rider but there are shorter novice and family options available.

SAFARI IN SAMBURU

With a rich cultural heritage and breathtaking scenery, Samburu National Reserve is well worth including in a Kenya itinerary. North of Mount Kenya, the reserve and its surrounding conservancies are a bit wilder, with rugged mountainous backdrops and parched plains broken by the Ewaso Nyiro river. Although the game is not as prolific as in the Mara, there is plenty to see including elephant, giraffe, buffalo, gerenuk, the endangered Grevy's zebra, lion, leopard and cheetah. A particularly special aspect here, however, is the colourful Samburu culture and people, who are related to, but distinct from, the Maasai. There is plenty of opportunity for interaction and to learn more about their way of life. There are particularly stunning luxury camps in the reserve and the surrounding conservancies including Saasab, Saruni Samburu and Elephant Watch Camp. Clients who get this far can't believe their luck!



S.A.F.E IN THE HANDS OF A GOOD DIRECTOR

British TV actor Nick Reding was so inspired by his time with a paediatric HIV and AIDS clinic in Mombasa that he decided to do his own bit for the cause in a totally unique way. Through his charity S.A.F.E (Sponsored Art for Education), he brings the messages of AIDS to the most unreachable communities, including slums and island communities, through theatre. He stages funny, heart-warming plays (with actors found X-Factor-style from the local communities) to audiences who laugh and cry with equal measure. Africans love a good story, but between the lines are important facts about HIV and AIDS which break the taboo and help increase understanding. Their work is making impressive inroads. See more at www.sponsoredarts.org



DID YOU KNOW? ...that baby giraffes can be up to 2 metres tall at birth and twice that height by their first birthday!

BUSH MAIL...

New Wild Camping Safari in Zambia

A new mobile tented safari is launching from next year with 6-night walking and camping safaris in the more remote reaches of the Kafue and South Luangwa. Owner-run and managed, it offers the ultimate safari mix of day and night drives, walking, canoeing and boating. If four people book, it's exclusively yours, making it ideal for small groups and for families, as they welcome children over seven.



New Kalahari Horse Riding Safari

Uncharted Africa (of Jack's Camp fame) has teamed up with horse riding safari veteran David Foot to create a fantastic new 5-night luxury horse riding safari in Botswana's Kalahari Desert, combining 3 nights at Camp Kalahari with 2 nights' fly camping on the Makgadikgadi Salt pans. This is wonderful and unique terrain, and you're exploring like the explorers of old!



Mozambique Island Lodge Reopens

The luxurious Indian Ocean island lodge, Quilalea, which was bought privately a few years ago taking it off the holiday map, is re-opening as a lodge later this year. The only one on the island, it offers the ultimate in seclusion and privacy surrounded by white sand and blue seas. Scuba diving, snorkelling and fishing are all on the agenda.



Music Festival on Zanzibar

Zanzibar's vibrant Sauti Za Busara Music Festival (8-12 February 2012) features music from the townships, West Africa and local taarab rhythms, a street carnival and outdoor markets. We can arrange group tours including VIP tickets to all events, spice farm and Stone Town tours, and 3 nights on the beach to recover, or we can tailor make a trip for you.



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TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS TO EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOROCCO, GABON, OMAN AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

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