

# Are you a warrior or a wild child?

Whether you prefer tracking golden monkeys or river cruises, African safaris come in all shapes and sizes, says *Julia Brookes*

## Kenya

Become a warrior for a week at Saruni Samburu, where you can join tribal warriors to spend three days trekking through the bush and learning to recognise animal tracks and behaviour as well as brushing up on the traditions and semi-nomadic heritage of the local Samburu people. Perched on top of a hill, Saruni Samburu opened last year on the Kalama Conservancy, near the Samburu National Reserve. It has two family houses with two bedrooms each and two separate one-bedroom houses, all with verandas. As well as day and night game drives and bush walks, rock climbing, and bush dinners are available and there's a large infinity pool. Rainbow Tours offers a nightly rate at Saruni Samburu from £204pp. The cost includes day and night game drives, guided bush walks, all meals, drinks, laundry, massage and transfers to cultural visits. Conservation fees are £42pp.

**Details** Rainbow Tours, 020-7226 1004, [rainbowtours.co.uk](http://rainbowtours.co.uk).

## Namibia

Onkoshi is the first permanent lodge inside the Etosha Pan, part of the Kalahari basin and one of Namibia's largest wildlife parks. Opened last September, run by the Namibian Government and sleeping up to 30, it has solar-powered bedrooms, stone bathtubs with views over the huge saline pan, an infinity pool, guides who offer night walks through the surrounding countryside and safaris during the day. Onkoshi

directly overlooks a flood basin and there is the chance to see lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, black and white rhino, giraffe, and zebra from the lodge's viewing decks. Rates start at £360pp per night, including park fees, all activities and all meals.

**Details** Expert Africa, 020-8232 9777, [expertafrica.com](http://expertafrica.com).

## Botswana

Tiny, but perfectly formed, Zarafa (formerly called Zibadianja) was rebuilt last summer, and, with only four rooms, bills itself as the smallest luxury camp in Botswana (and is certainly one of the most expensive). Overlooking floodplains in the Selinda Reserve, it sits on an island and each tent has a smart bedroom, bathroom and seating area. For those who can stump up £635pp per night, the day starts with an early morning game drive in a Land Cruiser, followed by an open-air brunch, a snooze, a swim and some sundowners

before a bush dinner. Then there's a spotlight night drive before bed. The price includes full board, game drives and drinks (apart from imported drinks and champagne).

**Details** 01728 685971, [www.tribes.co.uk](http://www.tribes.co.uk).

## Rwanda

Gorilla Mountain View Lodge, opened last December, is a handy, mid-price base for visitors keen to seek out golden monkeys and mountain gorillas. About 15 minutes' drive from the Volcanoes National Park headquarters, it has 30 cottages and

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chalets. Four nights' full board costs from £1,360pp, including private guide-driver throughout. Gorilla tracking permits (\$500pp) and monkey tracking permits (\$100pp) are extra. To stay in greater style upgrade to Virunga Lodge (an additional £1,000pp) or Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge (an extra £1,256pp). Details 020-8232 9777, [expertafrica.com](http://expertafrica.com).

#### Malawi

If you're looking for a place to unwind after watching wildlife, Pumulani ticks all the right boxes. On the southern shore of Lake Malawi with its own beach, this luxury bolt hole in Lake Malawi National Park has ten chalets, each with a living area and deck overlooking the water, which is clean, clear and warm. You can sail, dive, wakeboard, kayak, snorkel, fish, birdwatch, or relax on a dhow. Exsus Travel offers a nightly rate from £319pp. The price includes full board and road transfers from the airstrip.

Details 020-7292 5050, [exsus.com](http://exsus.com).

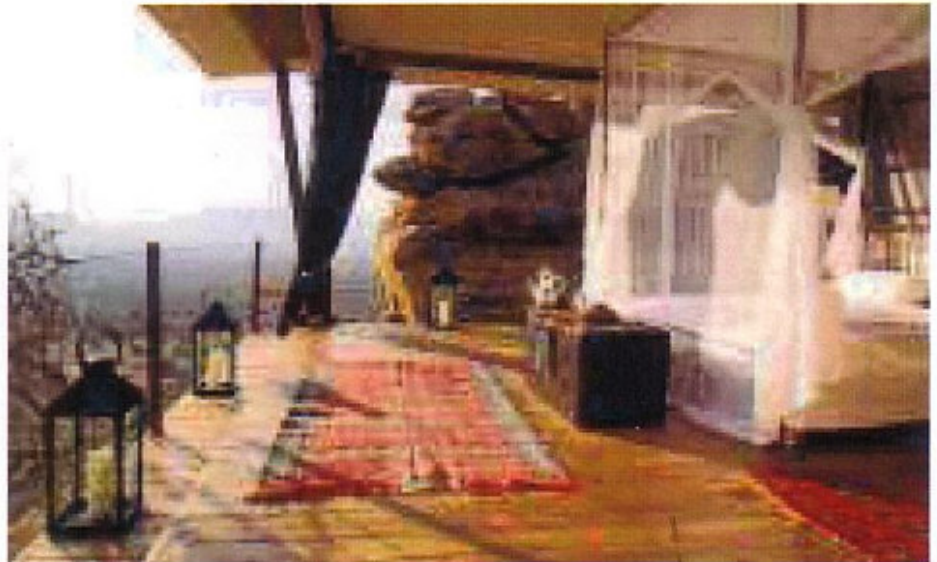
#### Chobe river cruise

Watch hippo wallowing, and elephants bathing, from on board the new luxury 14-suite *Zambezi Queen*. Cruise the Chobe River—with the wildlife-crammed Chobe National Park in Botswana on one bank and the Caprivi Strip of Namibia on

the other—for three nights as part of an 11-day trip that includes six in national parks in Zambia.

Prices from £4,275pp.

Details: 0845 0570600, [balesworldwide.com](http://balesworldwide.com).



**Out of Africa** Face painting, Samburu style, and the luxury of Saruni Samburu

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