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Get out of the Safari Vehicle

These six experiences take you way beyond the 4x4.

by JENNIFER FLOWERS

COMMUNITY VISIT

At **Singita Pamushana Lodge** in Zimbabwe, where writer Ryan Knighton stayed, you can spend time with members of the Shangaan tribe at Kambako Village, where you'll learn ancient hunter-gatherer survival techniques related to the local landscape. Try your hand at creating fire with friction, locating a water source with a divining rod, or weaving baskets with wild ilala palms. singita.com

HORSEBACK RIDE

The **Great Plains Conservation** Ride Kenya-Mara program is one of the only ways to see the renowned Maasai Mara reserve on horseback. Seasoned riders staying in one of two camps visit scenic escarpments and cross through rivers on two-hour rides to spot cheetahs, elephants, and wildebeests. greatplainsconservation.com

MOONLIT TREK

Between June and November, **Natural Selection** guests can take a Full Moon Makgadikgadi Walk to Botswana's baobab tree-covered Kubu Island. Starting at one of the company's three luxury camps in the Kalahari desert, travelers cross Botswana's lunarlike salt pans on foot by the light of the moon, where they'll encounter Stone Age tools and such wildlife as brown hyenas and meerkats. naturalselection.travel

CANOE RIDE

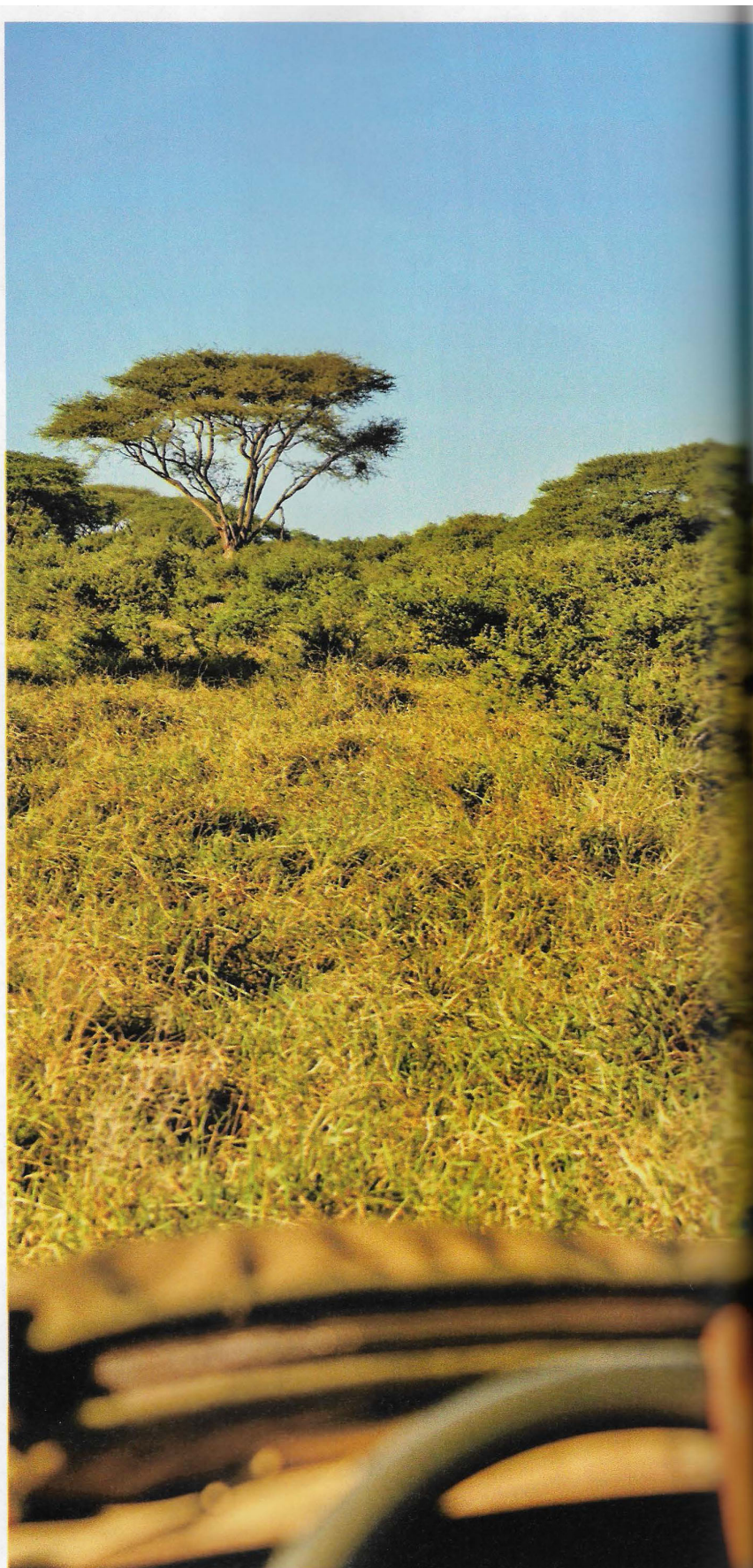
A stay at **Wilderness Safaris'** Vumbura Plains Camp in Botswana offers close-up views of the wildlife-rich Okavango Delta via *mokoro* (dugout canoe). Guided by an expert poler, guests venture down the delta's inlets through tall grasses to see miniscule painted reed frogs, the occasional hippopotamus or crocodile, as well as elephants and antelopes drinking along the shore. wilderness-safaris.com

CANOPY WALK

Deeper Africa arranges excursions to Tanzania's Lake Manyara National Park to see birds and primates in their natural habitat, including silvery-cheeked hornbills and vervet monkeys, as well as black mamba snakes, wild orchids, and countless butterfly species. Sleep amid a mahogany forest in one of the 10 stilted suites at **andBeyond's** Lake Manyara Tree Lodge. deeperafrica.com; andbeyond.com

RHINO MICROCHIPPING

To help travelers understand anti-poaching efforts, **Epic Road** offers rhinoceros microchipping experiences in southern Africa. In South Africa's Eastern Cape region, guests staying in **Kwandwe Great Fish River Lodge** follow a veterinarian and a biologist as they locate and tranquilize a rhino. The group helps with DNA testing, chipping, and examination. epicroad.com; kwandwe.com



Zimbabwe is home to nearly 700 species of birds and 199 species of mammals, including Burchell's zebra.

