

# The New York Times

## 10 African Adventures Answer Call of the Wild and Comfort

By ELAINE GLUSAC OCT. 23, 2015

With something for both travel styles, the following new resorts and trips capture the continent's array of attractions from culinary and cultural to wild and scenic.

To range far and wide, or to settle in and dig deep? That is the African travel question. Resorts and wilderness lodges offer in-depth exposure in African climates from coastal to bush, while tour operators take in more territory and manage the logistics of moving you around. With something for both travel styles, the following new resorts and trips capture the continent's array of attractions from culinary and cultural to wild and scenic.



# Kenya

## Angama Mara

On the very spot overlooking the Masai Mara game reserve where Meryl Streep and Robert Redford picnicked in the film “Out of Africa,” Angama Mara lodge opened in June. Founded by Steve and Nicky Fitzgerald, who ran and Beyond safari lodges for many years, the 30-tent compound (top) sits 1,000 feet above the Great Rift Valley, which can be spied through floor-to-ceiling glass facades on each tent. Resort amenities include a fitness center, swimming pool, African art gallery and art studio used by Masai artists. The lodge offers safaris on foot and in hot air balloons as well as via open-air vehicles. Rates from \$750 a person, all-inclusive.

Information: [angama.com](http://angama.com).



CreditFour Seasons Hotels and Resorts



# Morocco

## Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca

In Morocco's principal gateway, the 186-room Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca is scheduled to open by the end of the year. Set in the Anfa Place planned community, the oceanfront resort positions itself as equal parts beach retreat and exploration base, a 10-minute drive from the ornate Hassan II Mosque and nearby attractions. Contemporary guest rooms feature Moroccan touches like pendant lamps and patterned textiles, and most include balconies. Three restaurants will offer French, Moroccan and global small-plates fare, and the 10-treatment-room spa will include whirlpools, saunas and steam rooms. Rooms from 3,200 Moroccan dirhams (\$345 at 9.30 dirhams to the dollar).

Information: [fourseasons.com/Casablanca](http://fourseasons.com/Casablanca).



# South Africa

Gondwana Eco Camp, Mossel Bay

Offering opportunities to do scientific research alongside rangers, the new five-tent Gondwana Eco Camp will open Nov. 1 on the 27,000-acre privately owned Gondwana Game Reserve in South Africa's Western Cape. Six-day programs encourage guests to participate in monitoring and tracking elephants, rhinos, lions and cheetahs, sometimes transporting them for veterinary care. Participants will also learn basic survival skills and to identify the flora that makes up the unique fynbos ecosystem. Twin-bed tents with bathrooms and covered decks provide lodging, and facilities include a communal dining tent and a swimming pool. Rates from 10,500 rand (\$825 at 12.75 rand to the dollar), all-inclusive for the six-day program.

Information: [gondwanagr.co.za](http://gondwanagr.co.za)





# South Africa

## The Homestead, Stellenbosch

In the wine-growing Banghoek Valley about 40 miles east of Cape Town, Oldenburg Vineyards has converted its Cape Dutch farmhouse into a visitor's villa with modern décor and accommodations for up to 12 in six bedrooms, each with their own bathroom. Over 200 years old, the gabled house was the original homestead on the property, and includes a private pool in the surrounding gardens as well as generous furnished terraces with vineyard views. The property offers access to nearby Jonkershoek Nature Reserve for hiking, seven area golf courses and over 150 regional wineries. Rates from 14,000 rand a night (\$1,100), including breakfast and a wine tasting.

Information: [oldenburgvineyards.com](http://oldenburgvineyards.com).



CreditAsilia Africa



# Tanzania

## The Highlands, Ngorongoro Crater

Scheduled to open in March 2016 at an elevation of 8,900 feet, the Highlands is said to be the highest property in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The camp will offer safari game drives, walks to local Maasai villages and hikes up two other area craters. Rooms from \$625 a person, a night, including meals and excursions.

Information: [highlandsngorongoro.asiliaafrica.com](http://highlandsngorongoro.asiliaafrica.com).



CreditLuAnn Cadd



# Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania

Ape-watching meets the traditional African safari in Extraordinary Journeys' new 12-day trip to central Africa. It splits its time between Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to endangered mountain gorillas, and Tanzania's Serengeti region. With a private guide, travelers spend four active days in Virunga tracking gorillas and chimpanzees, and hiking Nyiragongo volcano to camp beside its lava lake. Flying to Tanzania, the trip continues with game drives and overnights in luxury-level tent camps in Serengeti National Park. Limited to eight people, the trips depart in February 2016 and 2017 and start at \$13,000 a person, double occupancy.

Information: [extraordinaryjourneys.com](http://extraordinaryjourneys.com).



CreditSusi Grant

# Ethiopia

Exodus Travels' new 13-day guided trip Ethiopia in Depth focuses on the less-traveled Tigrai region in the north, best known for its churches and monasteries carved into cliffs and rocky outcroppings. Highlights include visits to muraled monasteries, some dating back to the 13th century, at Lake Tana, 17th and 18th century castles in Gondar and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, spaced by hikes in the Simien Mountains. The adventure travel company already offers five trips in Ethiopia ranging from wildlife watching to mountain trekking. Rates start at 3,000 Canadian dollars a person, double occupancy (\$2,400 at 1.25 Canadian to the dollar).

Information: [exodustravels.com](http://exodustravels.com).



CreditEspiegle



# South Africa

The winemaker Norman Hardie of Canada's Prince Edward County will revisit his homeland in a culinary-focused tour of South Africa next March. Epicurean South Africa with Norman Hardie from Quench Trip Design features 12 days with the Johannesburg native visiting wineries like [Klein Constantia](#), restaurants like the [Greenhouse](#) in Cape Town and the [De Hoop Nature Reserve](#) for encounters with small game and a traditional barbecue. Accommodations range from boutique hotels to farm stays. The trip departs March 26 and is \$6,975 a person, double occupancy.

Information: [quenchtravel.com](http://quenchtravel.com).



CreditWildland Adventures

# Zambia

For travelers seeking a more active safari than most drive-focused itineraries, Wildland Adventures has introduced a 10-day Wild Zambia Safari that includes long hikes and passage by canoe as well as four-wheel drive safari vehicles in visits to South Luangwa and Lower Zambezi National Parks. Trips start at Victoria Falls and are largely divided between two remote but comfortable wilderness camps. Travelers will walk the five miles between them (with luggage shuttled forward), tracking buffalo, giraffe and elephant en route. The adventurous can add an optional night of camping under the stars in South Luangwa to the itinerary. Trips start at \$7,450 a person, double occupancy.

Information: [wildland.com](http://wildland.com).



# Zimbabwe

Next year, Deeper Africa will tackle the issue of poaching in its new 11-day tour Zimbabwe Conservation and Culture. In addition to safari drives in Hwange and Gonarezhou National Parks, travelers will accompany anti-poaching patrols, meet villagers and hear conservationists talk. The itinerary balances overnights in rustic bush camps with more



pampering wilderness lodges, and September trips conclude with a visit to the Machangana Festival. Departures in fall 2016 and spring 2017 start at \$9,985 a person

Information: [deeperafrica.com](http://deeperafrica.com).

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<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/23/travel/kenya-south-africa-holidays-lodging.html>