‘CANCER HAS TOUCHED MY LIFE – I’D DO WHAT ANGELINA DID’

‘MARRIAGE ISN’T IMPORTANT – BUT WE NEED TO START A FAMILY SOON’

‘THE SAD DIVORCE THAT CHANGED MY LIFE’
SAFARI SO GOOD!

OK! ENJOYS AN AMAZING ANIMAL-FILLED WEEK IN KENYA...

The combination of awe-inspiring landscapes and the chance to enjoy close encounters with elephants, giraffes, lions and cheetahs in their natural habitat makes Kenya a popular safari destination. The country gets its name from Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest peak, on the slopes of which HRH Prince William proposed to the Duchess of Cambridge, while Peter Andre has just come back from a safari trip to Kenya with his girlfriend Emily MacDonagh. Here, OK!'s Zoë Hill heads off to the country's Laikipia region, in the shadows of Mount Kenya, on her first ever safari...

AN AMAZING FIRST DAY
To work off some of the delicious food, I take a stroll around the retreat's beautiful gardens, which boast lush greenery as well as some striking sculptures from the owner's private collection. I soak up a few rays by the pool before it's time to refuel with afternoon tea in the converted stable. I ignore the sandwiches in favour of some warm sorbets, banana bread and cute banoffee pies. Before dinner, harman Bernard rustles up one of his signature cocktails, the delicious Medicine – it gets its name from the fact that locals treat cuts with vodka, which forms the base of the rather potent drink! Then it's time for dinner of lamb curry, rice and lentil dhal accompanied by some chilled white wine. I round off the night watching a

WILD ABOUT SEGERA
The next morning, I'm awoken by the beautiful sound of birdsong. It's time for a hearty breakfast of eggs florentine before going on a walking safari. I set out on foot accompanied by several guides and it's not long before we spy some giraffes. Next the guides point out (from a safe distance) some zebras, impalas and a water buffalo. Before dinner, Bernard's cocktail of the day is the golden mojito – it's absolutely delicious, and I have another one just to make sure it wasn't a fluke! It's a warm, clear night, so we take the opportunity for some star-gazing – the milky way has never looked more incredible. All the villas have a bed outdoors for anyone who fancies spending the night under the stars, but I decide to listen to the sounds of hyenas and monkeys from the comfort of my bedroom instead!

AERIAL ANIMAL SPOTTING!
After an overnight flight, I arrive in the Kenyan capital Nairobi a little bleary-eyed. Following a short small plane transfer, I make the final leg of our journey in style by helicopter. The spectacular views wake me up and our pilot then points out various animals along the way – as a result, I've seen rhinos, giraffes and...
MY TOTAL TRIP HIGHLIGHT

Lunch today is a picnic by the river – forget Scotch eggs and ham sandwiches, this is a gourmet affair, washed down with champagne. It’s on the drive back that I witness the magical moment yet as we happen upon a family of elephants munching on grass. It’s an unbelievable sight and I watch them in silence – it’s the highlight of the trip and it’s only when one of the animals raises her trunk and issues a warning noise that I drag myself away. I’m still on a high from my amazing day when Bernard whips up a vodka and goji berry cocktail, and I enjoy a tour of the hotel’s collection of African art.

GIVING BACK

I’m up early the next day for a game drive and I don’t have to wait long to spot our first animal. A hyena runs across the road ahead, and soon the sightings come thick and fast – there are gazelles, baboons, impala, zebras and water buffaloes.

Next I pay a visit to the Zeitz Foundation – set up by Segeira’s owner, former Puma CEO Jochem Zeitz, with Dame Vivienne Westwood and Usain Bolt among its ambassadors – to learn how it’s making an impact in the area through its four C’s programme: conservation, community, culture and commerce. Then it’s time to see the foundation’s work in action at Waterbank School, and I’m unprepared for quite how emotional the visit turns out to be. As I pull up outside, the children flock to greet me, then try to hold my hands and touch my hair. I show off the one word of Swahili I’ve learned – the greeting ‘jambo’ – and then, with five children holding on to each hand, I’m shown around their school. When it’s time to leave, the children sing a special goodbye song which – combined with a realisation of how much we take for granted – is enough to bring a tear to the eye.

SUNRISE EXPEDITION

I set the alarm early to enjoy the sunrise over Mount Kenya, which is a breathtaking sight. I tucked into porridge and a banana smoothie before setting off on an early morning game drive. We’ve only been out for two minutes when I see a family of giraffes. There are also gazelles, ostriches and, as it turns out, I’ve just missed two lions – a cattle herder tells me he saw them an hour earlier, which is a shame, but part of me is little relieved! After lunch there’s just time for a bumpy but enjoyable ride on one of Segeira’s resident camels before my plane arrives to take me back to Nairobi for the flight home. There’s one last sighting of some giraffes from the air, then it’s time to say goodbye, but hopefully not for long as I’ve been hit by the Africa bug.

BOOKING UP

Mahlatini Luxury Travel (www.mahlatini.com; 028 8076 6690) offers five nights staying at the Wilderness Collection’s Segeira Retreat on an all-inclusive basis, including food, selected activities and light aircraft flights, from £3,455pp. Kenya Airways (www.kenyairways.com/au) flies daily from Heathrow to Nairobi from £660pp return.

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5 OF THE BEST

SUPER SAFARI ESSENTIALS


3 LAURA BAILEY FOR RADLEY BREWERSTER BAG, £139, www.radley.co.uk. Laura’s second capsule collection for Radley – and can’t get enough of this gorgeous cross-body bag, with its lightweight fabric and vintage look leather trim.

4 BOOTS REPEL INSECT REPELLENT LOTION, £8.95, www.boots.com. This not only protects from biting insects for up to eight hours, it’s non greasy and smells divine too. Mozzies, beware!