



FAT TAILER[®]

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CARRIER

Travel Guide

2015

TOP OF THE PACK

Play your cards right and come face to face with the world's most way-out wildlife



HOANIB SKELETON COAST CAMP NAMIB DESERT, NAMIBIA

Natural habitat The look is Sydney Opera House meets Dalí on Mars. Eight dune-like tents are dotted between gargantuan granite peaks in the deepest, darkest Namib Desert.

Nocturnal activity This is killer design in the desert. The tents have rainforest showers, smooth concrete floors, his-and-hers wardrobes and an exterior sit-and-stare area. From the glass-fronted bedroom, take in surreal views in ear-ringing silence (no hope of a mobile signal here).

Grrr factor Namibia is more about the crazy landscapes than the animals, but you'll spot herds of oryx, towers of giraffe, parades of elephant and zeals of zebra.

Distinctive markings Strap yourself into one of two squishy seats on the roof of the retro-fitted safari vehicle for the wildest game drive EVER.

Grazing Start with a full English, move on to a picnic lunch of BBQ chicken and pasta salad and finish up with an afternoon tea of exquisitely evil cakes. In the evening, it's all about the kudu steak and artichoke salad, washed down with crisp South African wines. After supper, wrap up in one of the striped shawls to be found on the back of every chair and gather round the fire pit to sip Amarula (creamy, boozy, yummy) and track the shooting stars.

Leader of the pack Do not miss the trip to the Skeleton Coast. Most guests fly, but for a proper adventure take the three-hour, cross-country drive along dusty, bumpy tracks, through parched riverbeds and over golden dunes to the Atlantic Ocean. By the time you return to camp, you'll have earned yourself an extra-large nightcap. ▷

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TRAVEL
(AFRICATRAVEL.
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3580) OFFERS
FOUR NIGHTS,
FULL BOARD,
FROM £3,220,
INCLUDING
BRITISH AIRWAYS
FLIGHTS,
TRANSFERS,
ACTIVITIES AND
EXCURSIONS.



CABALLADAS PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

Natural habitat 50,000 acres of glorious fields, forests and snow-capped volcanoes, all of which have been in the hands of one of Argentina's oldest families, the Lagos Mármols, for more than a century.

Nocturnal activity The 10-bedroom Casa Grande still feels like a (terrifically smart) family home: open fires, hot baths and soft beds.

Grrr factor Wild boar, red deer and puma (although you might only see their paw prints).

Distinctive markings The space – where else can you hack for 10 hours in one direction without leaving home turf?

Grazing Cook Alicia has been feeding the family for 20 years. Expect cut-with-a-spoon steak and homemade bread and endless supplies of that Argentinian essential, malbec.

Leader of the pack Days are spent sinking into sheepskin-topped saddles on one of the 60 horses, galloping across the Patagonian wilderness and pretending, just for a few days, to be a wild-haired Argentinian.



BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £370
(CABALLADAS.COM; 00 39 0471 840005)



Chuck out the bins; dump the zoom lens – what you really need on safari is this nifty handmade Hendrick's travel case. It's gin o'clock all day. Hendrick's gin with travel case, £795, harrods.com



RICHARD'S RIVER CAMP MASAI MARA, KENYA



Natural habitat Owner and Mara royalty Richard Roberts used to camp in this location as a boy, so he knows it's the absolute tip-top spot for posh fly-camping: seven canvas tents overlooking a soporific hippo pool.

Nocturnal activity The accommodation is kitted out by Richard's wife Liz with bits and bobs from their travels: Indian block-print cottons, silver-fringed Moroccan throws and intricately carved woodwork.

Grrr factor Watch out for the resident lion pride that hunts right in front of the camp and can be heard roaring long into the night.

Distinctive markings If you're lucky, Richard might take you up in his Cessna, zooming over the galloping herds of the great migration. All that's missing is a wistful-looking Robert Redford...

Grazing Everything comes fresh from a charcoal oven – you'll dream about the juicy Florentine steak for months.

Leader of the pack Top up day and night game drives with bush walks and visits to the nearby Masai village.



BOOK IT NATURAL WORLD SAFARIS
(NATURALWORLDSAFARIS.COM; 01273 691642)
OFFERS SEVEN NIGHTS, FULL BOARD, FROM
£4,350, INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND ACTIVITIES.

BOOK IT JOURNEYS BY DESIGN
(JOURNEYSBYDESIGN.COM; 01273 623790)
OFFERS EIGHT NIGHTS, ALL INCLUSIVE,
FROM £5,860, INCLUDING TRANSFERS.

MWIBA LODGE SERENGETI, TANZANIA

Natural habitat This new Texan-owned lodge feels like stepping into a friend's holiday home – a friend with the very best taste (and buckets of cash). Eight airy tents up on stilts, refreshingly anti-bling and with riverine views from every balcony.

Nocturnal activity Air-conditioning is as silent as a leopard in the grass, while cashmere throws and skin-covered chairs impart the heft of old-fashioned class.

Grrr factor Peer down on lion, zebra and wildebeest as they come to drink at the waterholes below your tent. Experienced safari-goers won't get bored.

Distinctive markings This truly exclusive lodge is set in 126,000 acres of private land; you won't see a non-Mwiba soul the entire time you're there.

Grazing Wine is big here, so expect your impeccable beef carpaccio to be paired with the perfect merlot.

Leader of the pack Guides are super-polished and really know how to keep you safe. Visit during the migration months between December and March.



KICHWA TEMBO MASAI MARA, KENYA



Natural habitat Peering over the Masai Mara, this contemporary-design camp has views, privacy and warthogs a go-go. The new lodge is fresh but chic – think OKA on safari.

Nocturnal activity A hippo-sized bed, loo with a view – and your own butler. This is not a normal tent.

Grrr factor Lion, cheetah and rhino – they're all here, popping up like clockwork. Come in autumn to see two million wildebeest migrate from the Serengeti National Park, across the Mara River, to the Masai Mara.

Distinctive markings Hot chocolate in bed, followed by gliding above the Serengeti in a hot-air balloon, makes getting up at 5am bearable.

Grazing Pick fresh limes and avocados from chef George's garden, or just turn up for his buffets of guacamole, baba ghannouj and lamb tagine.

Leader of the pack With Joseph as your guide, you could stay out in the bush all day. Make time for an Africology massage by the river: the sound of thundering water helps you forget about the crocodiles. ▷

BOOK IT MAHLATINI (MAHLATINI.COM; 028 9073 6050)
OFFERS FOUR NIGHTS, FULL BOARD, FROM £1,200,
INCLUDING ACTIVITIES AND TRANSFERS. KENYA
AIRWAYS (KENYA-AIRWAYS.COM) FLIES FROM
LONDON HEATHROW TO NAIROBI DAILY FROM £560.



SANDIBE OKAVANGO, THE CLEVEREST NEW LODGE IN BOTSWANA, IS DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE A CURLED-UP PANGOLIN, WITH CARBON-NEUTRAL ROOMS BASED ON GOLDEN WEAVER NESTS. THE WILDLIFE AIN'T HALF BAD EITHER – THE OKAVANGO DELTA IS ON YOUR DOORSTEP. EXPLORE BY CANOE OR, IF YOU'RE FEELING FANCY, HELICOPTER. (ANDBEYOND.COM)

JAWAI LEOPARD CAMP RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Natural habitat Slap bang in the middle of India's dustiest plains are 10 pristine, white-canvas tents, ringed by Rajasthan's granite hills.

Nocturnal activity Each tent has its own private deck, beds big enough to take the whole camp (and a few leopards) and beefy power showers.

Grrr factor Dawn and dusk safaris offer glimpses of leopard, accompanied by the eerie screeches of local peacocks and langur monkeys.

Distinctive markings Heat getting to you? Jump into the glittering infinity pool for a few brisk laps.

Grazing Evening drinks are taken around a fire and supper is under the stars, lit by candles.

Leader of the pack The camp's driver-tracker will drag you out of bed and onto a jeep before the sun is up, and the on-board naturalist will introduce you to the Rabari herdsmen, resplendent in their red turbans.



BOOK IT WILD FRONTIERS (WILDFRONTIERS
TRAVEL.CO.UK; 020 7736 3968) OFFERS
SEVEN NIGHTS, FULL BOARD, FROM £3,450,
INCLUDING FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS.

