



Out of This Wild

Maame Adjei is a Ghanaian actress and the founder of Girl Going Places, a travel show with a mission to encourage Africans to travel within their own countries and continent. In her first piece for SUITCASE Magazine, Maame reveals that you don't have to go on safari in order to go wild in Africa.

The African continent has always been synonymous with the word “wild”, and rightly so. Some of the world’s most exotic animals and awe-inspiring landscapes call Africa home, making it the ultimate destination for a safari experience.

However, one-dimensional Africa is not. Spread across 54 countries, there are countless ways to experience the continent’s wild side without so much as setting foot in a game reserve. From natural spa treatments in Ethiopia to crazy nights out in Ghana, here are five wild experiences for your next trip to the continent.

SLEEP

NOMAD SERENGETI SAFARI CAMP
SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA

This camp was designed to be the best place in the world to view the wildebeest migration across the Serengeti. And so, taking the standard safari experience one step further, the camp itself moves across hundreds of miles, following a route that wildebeest herds have traversed for centuries. Every open-plan tent comes complete with a bathroom, an eco-style toilet and running water (this isn't your school camping trip). Meals are fully catered and there's even a bar. Like any self-respecting camp, there's a fire-pit, so you can keep warm and cosy while revelling in one of nature's greatest gifts.

EAT

THE CARNIVORE
NAIROBI, KENYA

Nestled in the heart of bustling Nairobi and surrounded by beautiful gardens, the Carnivore offers a unique dining experience. Walk in and you'll be immediately greeted by the sight of an enormous charcoal fire pit loaded with an assortment of grilled meats. Chicken, lamb, spare ribs? Yes. Ostrich, crocodile, skewered kidneys? Of course. Fear not, there are tamer dishes for those with less adventurous taste buds, as well as copious sauces and sides. If you're ready to plunge into the wild, then don't miss the opportunity to push your palate out of its comfort zone.

OUT OF THIS WILD

DO

BLOUKRANS BRIDGE BUNGEE
GARDEN ROUTE NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

You've eaten crocodile and slept in the Serengeti. Now it's time to confront your inner daredevil and take a leap of faith off the highest commercial bungee jump in the world. Located on the western cape, Bloukrans Bridge sits 709ft above the Bloukrans River, and has been plunging adventurous travellers in and out of exhilaration (accident-free) for 25 years. This is once-in-a-lifetime experience located in South Africa's Garden Route National Park – don't forget to open your eyes and take in the verdant views on your way down.

RELAX

WEYBA TIS SPA TREATMENT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

No holiday is complete without a moment or more of relaxation. And if it comes with added health benefits, then that's even better. Weyba Tis is a time-honoured Ethiopian beautification ritual that is similar to a sauna. The process involves setting local wood and wild herbs alight within a hole in the ground. The patron – usually a woman – is then wrapped in blankets and sat on a chair that has been positioned over the smoke-pit. As the fumes encapsulate the body they open up the pores, and the treatment is said to cure back pain, cleanse the skin and prevent uterine problems.

PARTY

CARBON NIGHTCLUB
ACCRA, GHANA

Vodka-infused mists, fire-eaters, kissing booths and burlesque dancers. No, this isn't a vamped-up Cirque Du Soleil, this is Carbon. With support from Nick House, the brain behind some of London's hottest clubs, Carbon is what your wildest dreams are made of. It's a visual haven, with art installations at every turn, and its location within an Accra high-rise makes for stunning views over the Ghanaian capital. Pair that with waitresses donning feather and animal headpieces (the club is entirely run by women) and you get an unexpected and wildly original member of the African nightlife family.



PHOTO BY EMILY AMES