

SINGITA  
FARU FARU  
LODGE  
Tanzania



## A New Game Plan

Spotting Africa's big five (lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes, and rhinos) is one of life's great thrills. But why stop there? On this diverse continent, there are also whales to watch, zebras to track on horseback—and plenty of comforts to ease your way.

by JEN MURPHY



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COURTESY OF LEOBO PRIVATE RESERVE

**1**  
**GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE**  
*Walker Bay, South Africa*  
 Grootbos sits on a stretch of coast famed for its fynbos, an incredibly diverse natural shrubland. Guests may see one of 765 plant species while hiking the property's trails. The ocean's "big five" are the other draw: Boat trips from Walker Bay seek out seals, sharks, penguins, dolphins,

and June through December, whales. Rooms are peaceful, set against ancient milkwood trees or fynbos gardens, and the restaurant is good enough that Cape Towners will drive two hours for a meal. Before you head home, plant a tree as part of the lodge's Future Trees Project. You'll get the GPS coordinates so you can find it on your next visit. *From \$226. [grootbos.com](http://grootbos.com)*

**2**  
**ANDBEYOND BENGUERRA ISLAND**  
*Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique*  
 The Instagram-worthy moments start with views of Bazaruto Marine National Park on the 15-minute flight from mainland Mozambique. From above, the white sand dunes look like swirls of frosting atop the turquoise sea, home to colorful coral reefs. Safari operator

andBeyond's new lodge reflects the Portuguese colonial influence on the island by featuring outdoor showers lined with hand-painted tiles and four-poster beds draped with white linen canopies. Verandas lead to outdoor dining areas perfect for enjoying the region's famed prawns. *From \$695. [andbeyond.com](http://andbeyond.com)*

**3**  
**SINGITA FARU FARU LODGE**  
*Grumeti, Tanzania*  
 Singita has perfected the exclusive safari experience. At Faru Faru Lodge, a member of the **AFAR Collection**, guests stay in one of eight suites or the two-bedroom villa, have a choice of two pools, and are treated to gourmet meals paired with wines from a cellar that rivals the best in Paris. The lodge is set along the wildebeest migratory route in the Serengeti's private Grumeti Reserve. Thanks to an on-site equestrian center, June through October, guests can explore remote areas of the reserve on horseback. Once you've ridden side by side with a zebra, you'll never go back to sitting in a 4x4. *From \$1,150, all-inclusive. [singita.com/faru-faru-lodge](http://singita.com/faru-faru-lodge)*

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BEN BOWERS, FRÉDÉRIC LAGRANGE, COURTESY OF GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

**4**  
**LEOBO PRIVATE RESERVE**  
*Waterberg Mountains, South Africa*  
 If Neverland were set in South Africa, it would look like this. A three-hour drive north of Johannesburg, the Reserve's 23,000 acres contain eight cottages that can sleep 18, making it ideal for families. Your group has the run of the place, and the motto is: "You can do anything—just ask." Sleep in a tree house above a hippo hangout. See giraffes, wildebeests, and zebras by ATV, horseback, or helicopter. Go fishing, shoot clay pigeons, even don a space suit for a "star safari" at the on-site observatory. *From \$2,790, all-inclusive, based on eight adults. [leoboprivatereserve.com](http://leoboprivatereserve.com)*

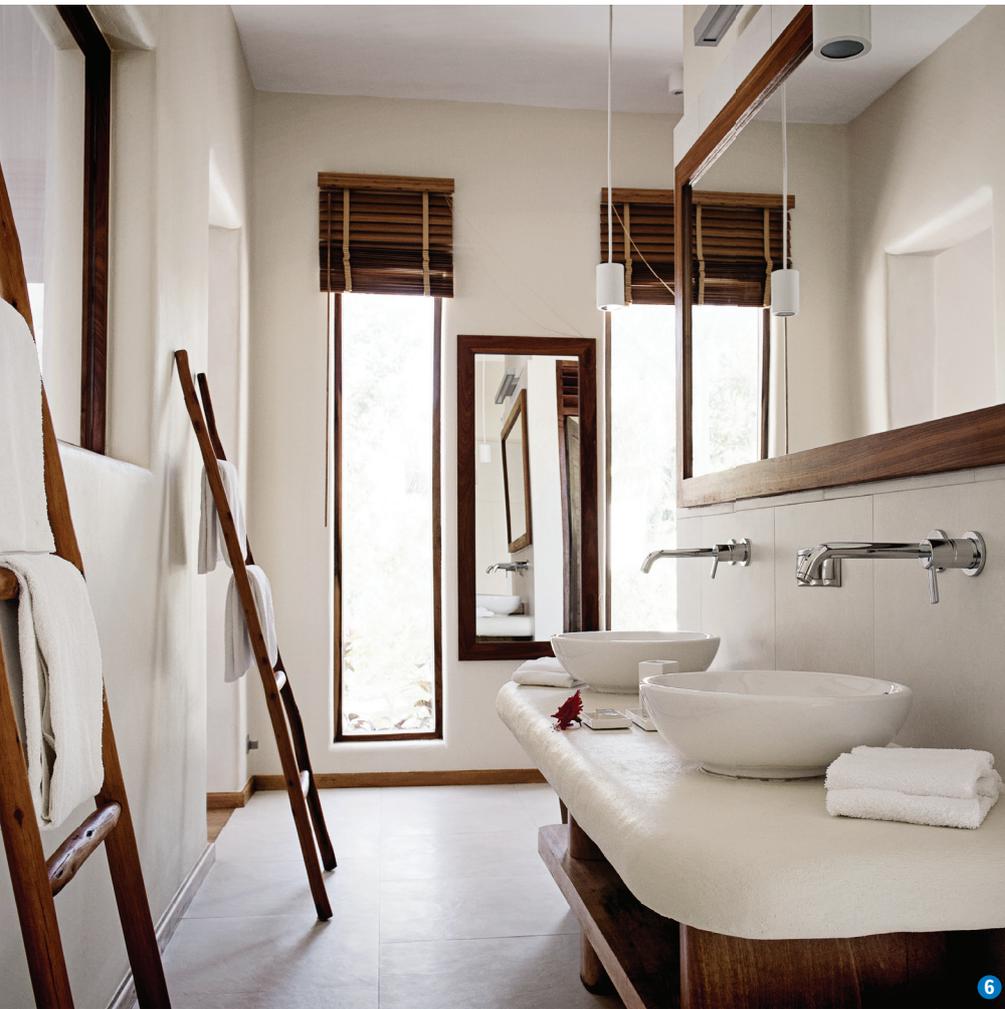
**5**  
**ERG CHIGAGA LUXURY DESERT CAMP**  
*Sahara, Morocco*  
 In the western Sahara Desert, surrounded by red dunes, Erg Chigaga could be mistaken for a campsite on Mars. The remoteness is part of the appeal. A day might start with a camel ride followed by a picnic beneath a tamarix tree, then drinks atop some of Morocco's highest dunes. After dinner, guests gather around the fire to listen to Berber ballads sung to the beat of goatskin drums. Tents have solar-powered lighting, wall-to-wall rugs, duvet-covered beds, and en suite bathrooms. Buckets of water take the place of showers. This is the desert, after all. *From \$254, all-inclusive. [desertcampmorocco.com](http://desertcampmorocco.com)*

**Three safaris that are anything but ordinary**

**TO SEE THE GREAT APES**  
 You can observe chimpanzees and mountain gorillas at **Volcanoes Safaris'** four lodges in Uganda and Rwanda. *[volcanoessafaris.com](http://volcanoessafaris.com)*

**TO STRIKE OUT ON HORSEBACK**  
 Experienced riders can explore Botswana's Okavango Delta on **Okavango Horse Safaris'** equestrian adventures, with nights spent at cushy camps. *[okavangohorse.com](http://okavangohorse.com)*

**TO PEEK INTO THE CULTURE**  
 In Ethiopia, trips put together by **Kibrantours** combine history, culture, and adventure. Stops might include the Rift and Omo Valleys and a visit with the Mursi Tribe. *[kibrantours.com](http://kibrantours.com)*



**6 ZANZIBAR WHITE SAND LUXURY VILLAS & SPA**  
*Paje, Zanzibar*  
 Calm waters and year-round winds have made the southeast coast of Zanzibar a hot spot for kite surfing. To mix the action with some pampering, book a stay at White Sand, an 11-villa resort with its own kite-surfing school. (June to September and December to March bring the best conditions.)

When your muscles get weary, the spa can help with products made with local seaweed and coconut. Spice-farm tours and village visits provide a taste of Zanzibar's culture. For a token of your trip, keep an eye out for the baskets and bags woven from strips of date palms called *ukili*.  
*From \$700. white sandvillas.com*

**7 NOMAD TANZANIA NDUARA LOLIONDO**  
*Piyaya, Tanzania*  
 The local culture gets as much attention as the wildlife at Nduara Loliondo. Open December through April, the camp sits on private Masai land in the eastern Serengeti. In a nod to the nomadic culture of the Masai, the lounge and dining tents are designed like yurts, while the six domed sleeping tents, done up in

sheepskin and leather, reflect the style of the Meru people. On a walking safari, you might track cheetah prints. But the real highlight is interacting with your neighbors, the Masai. Try to visit during a goat *orpu* to join a feast pairing roast goat with drinks made from cow's blood and milk.  
*From \$625. nomad-tanzania.com*



For tips on how to pick a safari go to [afar.com/safari](http://afar.com/safari).



**8 THE SAUSAGE TREE CAMP**  
*Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia*  
 Snuggled into the camp's eight Bedouin-style tents with decks overlooking the Zambezi River, guests fall asleep to the snorts of hippos. Each group gets its own guide and can choose to go on a game drive or a walking safari in search of elephants, hyenas, lions, and leopards.

But what Sausage Tree does best is canoe excursions, which float past "Hippo Alley" along the Chifungulu Channel. The Zambezi is also home to some of the best freshwater sportfishing in the world: Plan to be on the water casting for tiger fish at sunset, with a G&T at hand.  
*From \$675, all-inclusive. sausage treecamp.com*