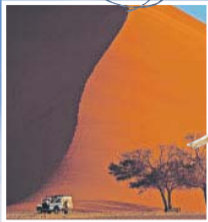
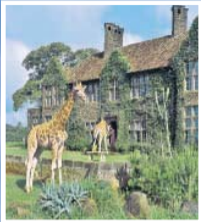


Main picture: Vamizi, Mozambique.  
Opposite: meet the Maasai in Kenya,  
stick your neck out at Nairobi's Giraffe  
Manor or size up the Namibian dunes  
John Warburton-Lee/Nigel Pickett/Walter Bakkeus/M&L Images



# SAFARI'S NEW WILD FRONTIERS

guide, and his twice-daily bush walks will be special, with no more than six guests at a time hoping to track down lions and elephants. The camp

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itself is perched on a sandbank in the park's northernmost reaches, where the Luangwa and Chibembe rivers meet. This is a particularly beautiful and untouched area, with bags of big game drawn to the open plains — a rarity in the well-wooded Luangwa Valley.

Abercrombie & Kent (0845 618 2122, [abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://abercrombiekent.co.uk)) has a special offer at Zebra Plains: a seven-night safari from £3,245pp, including flights from London and local transfers. You must book before May 31, for travel between June 1 and July 31, to get this deal, which saves £500 a couple.

## **MOZAMBIQUE** **Indian Ocean island magic**

Imagine a beach 1,500 miles long, with clusters of islands and coral reefs rising from the Indian Ocean. Welcome to Mozambique, the most gorgeous post-safari flop-out destination in Africa. Like neighbouring Zimbabwe, it has had its years of turmoil, but is now emerging. So, where to choose? First up is the Bazaruto archipelago — five sparsely inhabited tropical islands

▶▶ **Continued from page 13**

strung out like stepping stones across a marine park whose turquoise waters are home to turtles, dugongs and whale sharks. Its sugar-white sands dazzle the eye, and the beach lodges are kitted out with luxuries Crusoe never knew.

Azura, the newest lodge on Benguerra island, has infinity pools and butler service; families may prefer the child-friendly Bazaruto Lodge, on Bazaruto, where you can snorkel straight off the beach. Best, though, is Vamizi, fathoms ahead of its rivals, with 13 gorgeous villas and fantastic diving from a crescent-moon island near the Tanzanian border.

Imagine Africa (020 7622 5114, [www.imagineafrica.co.uk](http://www.imagineafrica.co.uk)) has six nights at Vamizi from £3,722pp, including British Airways flights from Heathrow to Dar es Salaam, then on with Air Vamizi (return flight via Nairobi). It also offers a bush-and-beach option — five nights on safari at Garonga, a stylish camp in South Africa's Makalali reserve, and five nights at Azura — from £4,578pp, including flights from Heathrow to Johannesburg with South African Airways and all local flights. Other Mozambique specialists include Audley Travel (01993 838000, [audleytravel.com](http://audleytravel.com)) and Expert Africa (020 8232 9777, [expertafrica.com](http://expertafrica.com)).

## **BOTSWANA** **Where the lion roars**

Bodumatau (“Where the lion roars”) is the local name for a remote corner of

the Okavango, and you can explore it on an eight-night traditional tented safari led by Roger Dugmore, one of the most experienced guides in the country. With the number of guests limited to 12, this is a rare opportunity to spend quality time with the delta's big game. Departing on September 21, it costs £3,830pp, full-board, including all flights and activities, with The Ultimate Travel Company (020 7386 4646, [theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](http://theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)).

help to track down the elusive Kalahari truffles before the meerkats get them. These desert delicacies are distantly related to French truffles, and a bumper season is expected this year at Tswalu Kalahari, the largest private game reserve in South Africa. For £3,880pp, you are invited to dig up, cook and eat your own truffles on a four-night, full-board safari, with another four nights, B&B, at the Cape Grace hotel in Cape Town. The price includes flights from Heathrow to Johannesburg (back from Cape Town), and your own private vehicle, as well as the services of a tracker on safari. Book through Bridge & Wickers (020 7483 6555, [bridgeandwickers.co.uk](http://bridgeandwickers.co.uk)).