

ADVENTURE

NORTH AMERICA

ASIA

AFRICA

LATIN AMERICA

EUROPE

POINTS SOUTH

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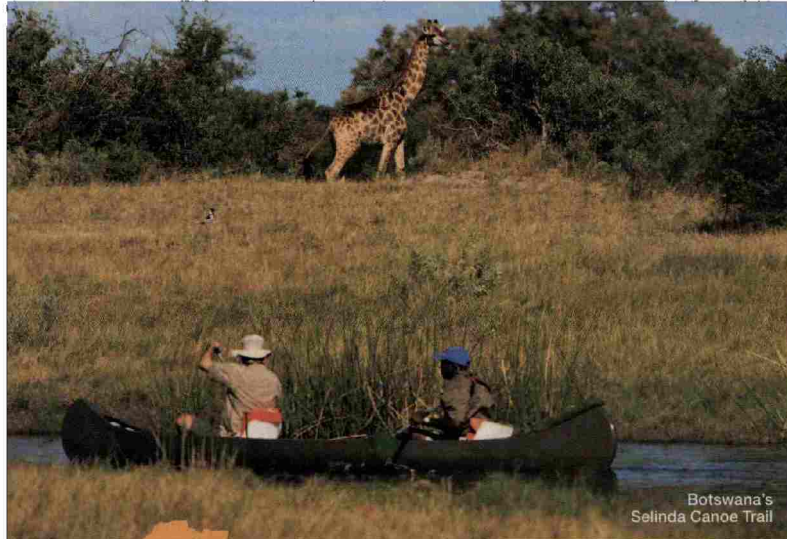
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NEW

TRIPS
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NOW MORE THAN EVER, TRAVELERS WANT THEIR DOLLARS TO DO MORE—FOR OTHERS, FOR THE PLANET, FOR THEMSELVES. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE FOUND WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE BEST TRIPS OF 2010. FROM WOLF-TRACKING IN SLOVAKIA TO RAFTING A FORBIDDEN RIVER IN BHUTAN, HERE ARE 25 BRAND-NEW ADVENTURES, ALL OF THEM JUST RIGHT FOR RIGHT NOW. BY CLAIRE MARTIN



Botswana's Selinda Canoe Trail

leave without at least glimpsing a lemur; Nosy Komba, or Lemur Island, is one of the last stops. In the wake of the political unrest here last spring, animal poaching—specifically lemur poaching—has become a growing problem. But Kumuka is keeping close tabs on security (at press time, the U.S. State Department had lifted its travel warning) and knows tourism is one of the best ways to help protect wildlife. “By seeing lemurs, clients learn firsthand that they’re a more valuable commodity alive than dead,” says Kumuka’s Steve Murphy.

OUTFITTER: **Kumuka Worldwide**; kumuka.com
 PRICE: **\$805** (\$) LENGTH: **8 days** DEPARTS:
April–December

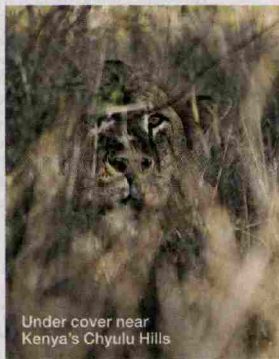
KENYA

Save the King!

DIFFERENCE MAKER Lion kills cow, Maasai warrior kills lion. It's a centuries-old conflict in the Kenyan bush.

But in the past ten years lion populations across Africa have plummeted from 100,000 to 23,000, transforming the issue into a full-fledged crisis. Alarmed research crews have come to Kenya to study the cats and teach the Maasai ways to live with them harmoniously. But one conservation group is way ahead of the curve. Kuku Group Ranch, a 280,000-acre spread in the Chyulu Hills of southern Kenya, is entirely owned and operated by the Maasai themselves. And so far they've had dramatic success with their cat-protection efforts: In a recent 30-month period, the ranch's lion population jumped from 15 to 52. Now, in conjunction with Geographic Expeditions, Kuku will bring in its first guest-researchers. From your luxury tented camp at Campi ya Kanzi, you'll set out on foot with Maasai trackers to study Kuku's lions, reading paw prints and at times walking up on the felines (tagging and collaring is part of the job). “You have an opportunity to observe natural history at a slowed pace,” says Geographic Expeditions president Jim Sano. “You're not zipping around a park from one animal to another.”

OUTFITTER: **Geographic Expeditions**;
geoex.com PRICE: **From \$7,600** (\$\$\$\$)
 LENGTH: **9 days** DEPARTS: **January, March–July, September–December**



Under cover near Kenya's Chyulu Hills

TANZANIA & KENYA

Beyond Kili

EXPLORERS CLUB In the '70s and '80s, Rick Ridgeway was on a tear: He became one of the first Americans to summit K2, joined the second U.S. expedition to conquer Everest, and dragged a 250-pound handcart across a Tibetan plateau. But perhaps his most outlandish idea was to climb Mount Kilimanjaro . . . and keep walking all the way to the Indian Ocean. In 1997 he did just that, publishing an account of his journey, *The Shadow of Kilimanjaro*. Since Ridgeway's feat—which included the first west-east crossing of 11,000-square-mile Tsavo West and East National Parks—Tropical Ice Limited has been retracing portions of his 300-mile route. Now owner Iain Allan, who served as Ridgeway's original guide, will organize the first full trek from mountain to sea. You'll begin with a Kilimanjaro ascent via the Umbwe route (the most scenic—and challenging—option), drop down into Kenya, hike through Tsavo West and East National Parks, and finish at the Indian Ocean. Ridgeway may or may not make a guest appearance, but you'll be in good hands. “We become a part of the African bush experience,” Allan says. “Each day we enter it more deeply, fears of it are rationalized, senses are heightened, and we begin to understand it on its own terms.”

OUTFITTER: **Tropical Ice Limited**; tropical-ice.com PRICE: **\$12,500** (\$\$\$\$)
 LENGTH: **24 days** DEPARTS: **September ▲**

PHOTOGRAPHS, FROM TOP: COLIN BELL / COURTESY OF EXPLORE, INC.; JIM TIMPIN / ALAMY

AFRICA

BOTSWANA MADAGASCAR KENYA TANZANIA

BOTSWANA

Big Game by Boat

SPORTING LIFE A few years ago, the 320,000 acres of land connecting the Okavango Delta with Botswana's Linyanti marshes were a trophy hunter's paradise. Then along came National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Dereck and Beverly Joubert, who bought and transformed the region into the Selinda Reserve, a private sanctuary for lions, elephants, cape buffalo, leopards, and the rare aardwolf. The reserve's centerpiece is the Selinda Spillway, a river that pours across the savanna, linking the delta with the marshes and providing thousands of animals with a massive watering hole. This year, the Spillway is at its highest level in three decades, which means more buffalo and elephants will come for a drink—and with them, more predators. To showcase the old-school safari vibe—camp consists of simple dome tents and bucket showers—and a staff-to-guest ratio of 1:2. “You're canoeing waters that have never been canoed before because they haven't even existed for years,” says Cherri Briggs, Explore Inc's owner. By boat you can drift silently up to thirsty animals and spot predators (like crocodiles and leopards) from the water, raising your odds of seeing a kill.

OUTFITTER: **Explore Inc**; exploreafrica.net PRICE: **\$1,450** (\$\$\$\$)
 LENGTH: **3 days** DEPARTS: **May–October**

MADAGASCAR

Sail the Indian Ocean

SPORTING LIFE Known for its 70-plus species of lemurs, Madagascar has the market cornered in trips focused on exotic leaping animals. But few travelers are aware of the country's marine life. Enter Kumuka Worldwide, whose first-of-its-kind sailing trip plunges into the coral-filled Indian Ocean while hitting a cluster of little-visited islets just off the main island. Starting on Nosy Be, the largest of Madagascar's outer islands, you'll travel by dhow—the traditional sailboat used by African and Arabian traders for millennia—from one deserted beach to the next, camping on white sand by night, and kayaking, snorkeling, and fishing by day. The first port of call is Ambavatoby Bay, where your chances of seeing a whale shark (massive, spotted, and up to 60 feet long) are unusually high. Nosy Iranja is up next, a hawksbill turtle breeding reserve prime for sea kayaking. Then it's on to Nosy Tanihely, whose soft corals, lobsters, and eels make for prize snorkeling sights. Of course, you wouldn't want to

COST PER DAY: \$ \$0-199 \$\$ \$200-299 \$\$\$ \$300-399 \$\$\$\$ \$400+