

Farside Africa

A Journey to Remember



EVERYONE'S A WINNER...

With a FREE Second Gorilla Permit

Enjoy a free second permit worth \$500 when you spend 5 nights or more on safari in Uganda's gorilla parks. This is a generous bid by our Ugandan gorilla tracking company to encourage visitors to the region which in turn supports the vital conservation of the mountain gorilla. Every gorilla permit purchased goes towards the protection of the gorillas and their national parks and also benefits the surrounding communities. So everyone's a winner! – you get a second opportunity to enjoy this amazing experience for free, and the national parks receive a much-needed donation for their vital conservation and communities.

SOUK IT UP BY AIR IN MOROCCO



Experience Morocco from new heights with an exclusive overnight private plane trip to the Sahara Desert. Fly over the snow-capped peaks of the High Atlas Mountains and the dramatic Dades and Todra Gorges to the vast expanse of the Sahara Desert, before swapping your propeller for a camel and riding to your private overnight camp. You'll be able to watch the spectacular sunset before dinner under the stars accompanied by local entertainment. The next day you'll enjoy a cultural detour back to your plane from where you can continue your holiday in Marrakech or explore the Atlas Mountains or the charming coastline around Essaouira.

Welcome to our latest news update. We have just launched our new look e-newsletter, which is easier to read online and takes you straight to links on our website for full details of all our news and features. If you would like to receive future newsletters by email, please sign up at www.farsideafrica.com

We had a very successful art exhibition in April with Edinburgh wildlife artist Caroline Fulton and thank you to all of you who came along. We have more events coming up where you can come and meet us and have an informal chat about future holidays to Africa. Keep updated on the news page on our website – and remember to look at our specials page for the latest deals!

DO YOU NEED TO GET AWAY ATOLL?

VICKY EXPLORES THE BEACHES AND CULTURE OF NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

I first visited Mozambique in 1996, just after the civil war had finished and the country had basically been decimated, burnt out tanks and lorries littered the broken roads, blown up bridges cut off whole areas, families were torn apart by war and poverty was rife. Over the years I have ventured back, seeing the country stabilise and the growth of tourism in the southern part of the country. But in the past few years there have been exciting developments 2000 kilometres further north, near to the Tanzania border.

The Cabo Delgado province has a rich trading history from the Omani sultans to the first Portuguese colonial settlers in the 16th century and has been pretty much untouched since the Portuguese left in the 70s – until recently. The port town of Pemba is the gateway to the region and its stunning string of islands in the Quirimbas archipelago. On the far side of the huge natural harbour is Londo Lodge, built in a natural cove with a beautiful beach and clear turquoise waters. Arriving in time for lunch of a huge plate of Thai flavoured split prawns was the start of a 10 day gastronomic seafood extravaganza at four different lodges, and I couldn't fault the food anywhere – except maybe that the lobsters and crabs were too big!

Probably my favourite lodge, for its simplicity and eco friendliness, was Guludo a few hours further north. It was set up by a dynamic young English couple (she was voted Young Entrepreneur of the Year) who, at the same time as building the lodge, set up the Nema Charitable Foundation, which supports numerous excellent projects in the area that you are encouraged to visit.

We then flew to the islands. Our first stop was Ibo Island, where we bumped slowly through the faded grandeur of the Ibo town square to the beautifully restored Ibo Lodge in one of only two vehicles on the island. Ibo is a place where time has stood still and you can watch the world go by from the shady lodge veranda: the boat builders repairing dhows, the children on their way to school, fishermen returning home with their catch. The beauty of Ibo is the laidback friendliness of the people and you can wander around at ease exploring the back streets and crumbling buildings.

Flying north over turquoise seas and uninhabited islands and atolls, the luxurious Vamizi Island was our next stop. It certainly is 5* luxury, made all the better without air-conditioning and plunge pools. It must be one of the best beaches I have seen anywhere – beautiful white sand and clear, clear seas. I had a lovely dive here but due to lack of time and onward flights, I didn't have time to dive the most-talked-about site in the area – Neptune's Arm – but it will be still be there for my next visit.

Having not thought of myself as much of beach person, northern Mozambique with its history, sublime diving, fishing, snorkelling, clear waters, an abundance of seafood, beautiful lodges and friendly people might just have changed the way I think about beach holidays for good.

DID YOU KNOW that hyena and warthogs will share a den?
The hyena use it during the day and the warthogs at night!





BUSH MAIL



THE ELEPHANTS WHO COME FOR BREAKFAST

November is the month of the wild mango in Zambia and at this time every year elephant and other wildlife come from far and wide to seek the succulent yellow fruit on the massive wild mango tree that stands in the grounds of Mfuwe Lodge in the South Luangwa. Most days elephants walk literally up the steps of the lodge and through the reception area to feed on the fallen fruits. Witness this unique event as part of a wider safari to Zambia. There will be experts on hand to discuss elephant behaviour and you'll be able to take incredible close up photographs of these intriguing creatures.

ZIMBABWE RHINO CRISIS

Save The Rhino International is making a final appeal for funds to help conserve Zimbabwe's rapidly diminishing rhino population, the victims of major commercial poaching in the wake of the current crisis. One of the many side-effects is the rise in the number of orphaned, and sometimes injured, rhino calves that must be treated and re-habilitated. Funding so far has helped the programme translocate 50-60 rhinos to the safer terrain of the Lowveld in May, and to create a strong, reliable team of rhino rangers to carry out a severe anti-poaching campaign.

For more details see: www.savetherhino.org and how to donate see: www.justgiving.com/crisiszimbabwe

TOP 5 BEST FOR KIDS

- 1: Sand, sea and diving at Bazaruto Lodge, Mozambique**
- 2: Fairytale children's attic rooms at Kurland, South Africa**
- 3: Poo tracking at Mara Intrepids, Kenya**
- 4: Meeting the meerkats and quad biking at Planet Baobab, Botswana**
- 5: Up close with the big cats at Okonjima, Namibia**



Quirky and affordable in Plett Bay

Grand Café and Rooms is a charming new boho chic hotel created by designer Gail Behr and has funky, contemporary decor, and wonderful bedrooms with great views over the ocean and the mountains. Situated in the main shopping and restaurant street of the fashionable Plettenberg Bay and only a few minutes' walk from the beach, it has just eight uniquely designed rooms and a courtyard pool.



New live-aboard boat in Mozambique

A new overnight dhow experience, Fim do Mundo, has just launched off Ibo Island in Northern Mozambique's stunning Quirimbas Archipelago. The custom built 42ft traditional wooden dhow sleeps up to five people and offers a range of activities ideal for exploring this beautiful, untouched area including scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, fishing and kayaking. Trips are tailored to each group and can be from two days up to two weeks (or more).



New Walking Safaris INSIDE the Serengeti

Asilia's new Sayari Camp is offering a rare opportunity to walk inside the Serengeti, allowing you to get up close to big game and birds, and learn fascinating facts about animal tracks, trees and shrubs from experienced guides. The new camp is in a very good game area ideal for this activity. Walking safaris must be booked at time of booking your holiday.



Giraffe Manor Changes Its Spots

The famous and much-loved Giraffe Manor in Nairobi has just re-opened following a full refurbishment of the house and under new ownership. The former Leslie-Melville family home and giraffe sanctuary, where giraffe roam at leisure around the grounds and quite literally pop their heads in for tea, was taken over at the end of last year by the Kenyan Carr-Hartley family. All the bedrooms are now en-suite, and the menus have been redesigned to reflect a fresher approach. There is also a new family room and annexe with chill-out zone under the deck for children and a new formal garden reached from the sunroom.



New Kitesurf School in Zanzibar

Learn and enjoy the exhilarating sport of kitesurfing in the appealing blue waters off Zanzibar. With year round temperatures of 28-30 degrees, warm waters and down-winders of up to 30mph, the island is a fantastic place for it. Equipment hire and instruction both available. The instructors have over nine years' experience and teach all levels (and ages from 10 years old) from beginner to professional.



Farside Africa

TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS TO EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOROCCO, GABON, OMAN AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

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