

Harper's BAZZAAR

2008

TRAVEL GUIDE

Plus: the world's top spas



In association with

Elegant Resorts



Dhow House, Lamu, Kenya

The Dhow House is a glam-'camp' white architectural palace set in three acres of garden with an infinity pool to rival those of the Bond hideaways. A central sunken area offers a perfect communal chill-out zone. Various roof terraces can be sought out for raucous open-air curry feasts and parties under incredible skies. The cooking is wonderful, and there are barbecues on remote islands by arrangement daily.

Who goes Marianne Faithfull, Tracey Emin, Gillian Anderson – paparazzi-shy VIPs and stressed-out urbanites.

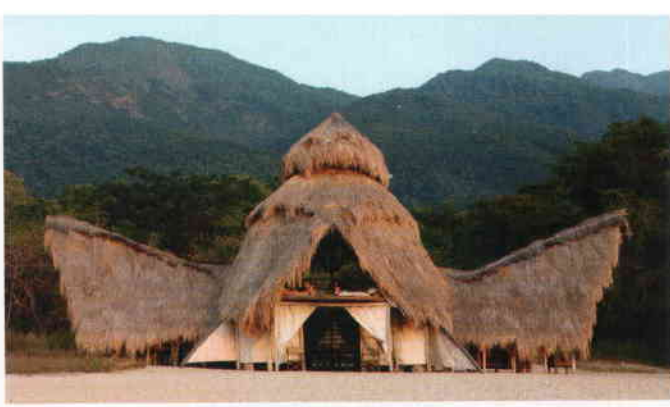
Top tip A sunset massage with Mercy.

Must-do Go for a silver-service picnic on a secluded island.

Downside Connections to Lamu are not always brilliant from Nairobi.

From £1,000 a day (sleeps 12), accommodation-only, with Journeys by Design (01273 623790; www.journeysbydesign.com).

is one of the smartest
by a kangaroo-roamed
powdered beaches,
bedrooms. There's a
anging options galore.
ntribute to the chic
70 development, and
g tennis courts.
vibe is seaside-casual.
there is no escape.
usgrave Island.
ng service is available).
770.com), from about
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Greystoke Mahale, Tanzania

In the clear, fresh waters of Lake Tanganyika, you can actually see hippos somersaulting balletically beneath the surface. From the dhow of the Mahale Mountains Tented Camp you can fish for freshwater beauties to be cut into sushi on the decks. It's a life-size aquarium, so snorkel in its waters, dive for clams, or swim under crystal waterfalls, which tumble down the heavily forested mountains that shoulder the camp. All this without even mentioning the camp's star attraction and event: the colonies of chimps and the days to be spent silently tracking and observing them beneath the cool leafy canopy. Only accessible by boat, the camp is simple but lovely: a handful of bandas across the beach built from reclaimed dhow wood over two levels.

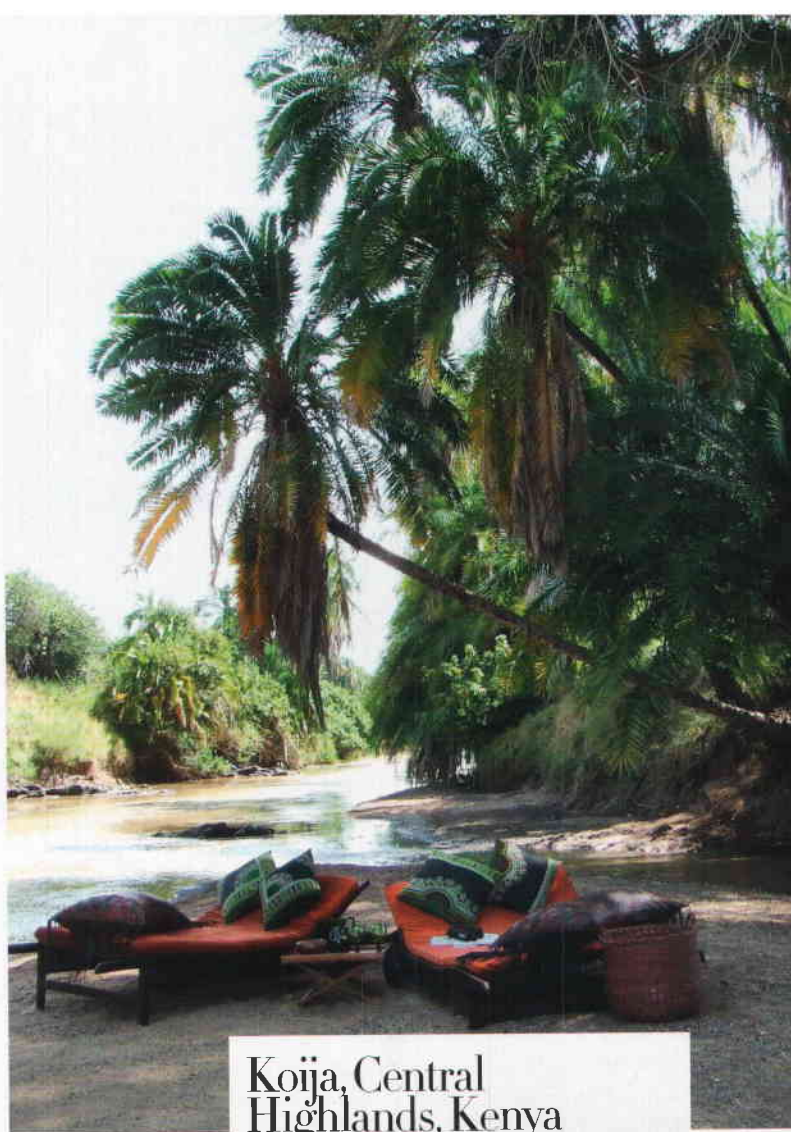
Who goes African safari connoisseurs, couples and families with older children.

Top tip You need proper boots for trekking.

Must-do Ask for their top cocktail – the Mahale Mayonnaise.

Downside It's very remote, so getting there is an adventure in itself, for which you need to make time.

Four nights, from £3,444 a person, including meals, flights and transfers, with Cazenove + Loyd (020 7384 2332; www.cazloyd.com).



Koiya, Central Highlands, Kenya

The great north of Kenya is one of the last frontiers of virgin wilderness, its people nomads who peacefully co-exist with the environment. Here, tribesman Loyaban Lemarti and his wife, fashion designer Anna Trzebinski, are offering a new kind of walking safari. For a few magical days, you are placed in the care of the Samburu people for an unparalleled experience. You walk with warriors among the wildlife, armed only with a spear and sharp senses. Come for a relaxed weekend, with morning and evening walks, or an expedition traversing hundreds of miles.

Who goes Anyone looking for an in-depth cultural experience.

Top tip Spend a couple of nights in the Nomadic Camp.

Must-do Take a helicopter flight over Samburu country.

Downside It's booked exclusively, so it's not ideal for couples on their own. *From £320 a person a night full board, with Journeys by Design (01273 623790; www.journeysbydesign.com).*



NEW Faru Faru, Singita Serengeti, Tanzania

Grumeti Reserves was the talk of every sophisticated African safari hand last year, because it brought unprecedented comfort and service to the experience. This year's most luxurious bolthole in the bush is Faru Faru, a partnership between Grumeti and the Singita collection in South Africa. The riverine forest beyond is within the Grumeti Reserve, now renamed Singita Serengeti. The six huge rooms have glass sliding windows, outside showers and views over two watering holes. The main area has two swimming pools. This is the place to witness spectacular migration crossings.

Who goes Young professionals.

Top tip June and July are the best months for the great migrations.

Must-do Go for a horse ride from the sensational stables.

Downside Out of season, resident game can be a little quiet.

From £410 a person a night full board, with Journeys by Design (01273 623790; www.journeysbydesign.com).