

NEW AMERICAN LANDMARKS: OUR COAST-TO-COAST GUIDE

TRAVEL + LEISURE

SPECIAL ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2008

TRAVEL
CHANGES
EVERYTHING

20
TRIPS
YOU'LL
NEVER
FORGET

THE HEART
OF FRENCH
COUNTRY
VILLAGE LIFE

(TURN TO PAGE 198)

Display until November 18, 2008
travelandleisure.com \$4.50

\$4.50

11>



0 72440 36076 1



DOWN UNDER WITH
AUSTRALIA'S
HUGH JACKMAN

DRIVING ANDALUSIA
IN SEARCH OF SPAIN'S
BEST OLIVE OIL



5 | Safari in Kenya with Journeys by Design (11 days)

Out of Africa

Above, clockwise from left: A bedroom at Shompole Lodge; grazing elephants at Tassia; a Samburu herdsman.

Wining and Riding

Below, clockwise from left: Abbaye de la Bussière; the medieval hospital in Beaune; a cyclist in Burgundy.

WHY WE LOVE IT The U.K.'s Journeys by Design, a leader in custom African travel, has a stellar reputation as a responsible luxury-tour operator. Its close work with tribal communities makes travel rewarding for tourists and indigenous peoples alike—Masai and Samburu villages and guides are integral to this trip. The company sets aside a portion of revenues for local charities, renewable energy projects, and their own conservation and development projects in the areas they visit.

WHERE IT GOES From the border of Tanzania to the big-game-rich Great Rift Valley; north to the semi-arid Laikipia Plateau; and up to the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust in the Matthews Range.

WHAT YOU'LL DO Three days in, you'll be riding camelback and walking through vast plains and tribal villages. The eight remaining days are yours to fill as you'd like. Highlights: moonlit bush dinners timed to catch wildlife at a watering hole; a picnic on Ol Lolokwe Mountain, believed by the Masai to be the residence of the gods; a hike through the forested Matthews Range, where leopards and thousands of once-threatened elephants roam; and a visit to the "singing wells," to see a human chain of Samburu warriors descend into wells as deep as 32 feet, chanting ancient songs as they hand up vessels of water for their cattle.

WHERE YOU'LL STAY In an open-air room with a private plunge pool at the eco-minded Shompole Lodge, a Masai-style room with stone walls and earthen ceilings at Tassia Lodge, and a luxury tent both en route to the Matthews Range and at the community-owned Sarara Tented Camp in the Namunyak Trust. Optional while there: a starry campout on wide sand *luggas* (dry riverbeds).

THE DETAILS T+L Transformation Vacation by Journeys by Design, available on request; 212/568-7639; journeysbydesign.com; \$8,333 per person (excluding airfare).

6 | Biking in Burgundy with Butterfield & Robinson (6 days)

WHY WE LOVE IT Butterfield & Robinson sets the standard for customized biking trips, and here brings you close to a culture intimately tied to the land. Thanks to Beaune being the company's European headquarters, you'll get unusually special access to an area that's a longtime B&R favorite.

WHERE IT GOES From Dijon, on a B&R custom-designed hybrid or racing bike adjusted for you, you'll cycle to the village of Chambolle-Musigny and its 370 vineyard acres of Pinot Noir; then follow the Côte d'Or, a limestone escarpment stretching to the river Dheune, to the medieval city of Beaune; and head into the Ouche Valley—hilly enough to create thirst, and thick with wineries to slake it—before going back to Dijon.

WHAT YOU'LL DO Covering 25 miles each day, this trip is doable at your own pace. Stops are mostly about wine: you'll tour wine caves with Domaine des Epeneaux owner and biodynamic-viticulture advocate Benjamin Leroux; visit the Grand Cru vineyard Le Montrachet; ride to the 12th-century castle of Chateauneuf; and picnic at Les Jardins de Barbirey, a private garden laid out in the early 1800's. A walk through Beaune's Old Town with historian Chantal Leroux pauses at shops stocking local L'Époisses cheese and truffle of Burgundy. Final touch: a lunch at a biofarm, Ferme de la Ruchotte, for a meal featuring locally grown vegetables and organic cheeses.

WHERE YOU'LL STAY At the 18th-century Château André Ziltener; the historic Hôtel Le Cep, with views of Beaune's Old Town; and a 12th-century monastery turned luxe country hotel, the Abbaye de la Bussière.

THE DETAILS T+L Transformation Vacation by Butterfield & Robinson; May 31–June 5, 2009; 800/678-1147; butterfield.com; \$5,795, with a single supplement of \$800.

