

DISCOVERY | ADVENTURE | ESCAPE



2 TRAVEL TIPS Luxurious France done on a budget



Prague has grand architecture, food and shoppi

Travel The New York Times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017



Of Rivers and Rituals

Touring Ethiopia's Omo Valley, with a sustainable travel outfitter.

By ANDREW McCARTHY

By ANDREW McCARTHY
"Your George W. Bush came here two years
ago and not a person recognized him."
"No one?"
"No one knew who he was."
"Would they have known Nelson Mandela?"

dela?"
"No. No one here would have seen TV. No one here thinks beyond Omo."
I was speaking with Lale Biwa, a member of the Karo people, in Ethiopia's Omo Valley. We were surrounded by low, circular huts made from sticks, with pitched grass roofs, in his home village of Dus, on the banks of

the Omo River. A woman, heavily adorned in beads and bracelets, ground sorghum on a large stone in the nearby shade. Men, some carrying AK-47s, sat in clusters. Small naked children scampered past. Goats and cattle roamed freely on the dusty flood plain. There was no electricity, no running water, no cars. Mr Biwam, who guesses his age to be "about 40", tooked around. "It is a "land come to the Omo Valley with the innovative tourism entrepreneur Will Jones toget a view into the lives of some of Africa's most traditional tribes." I'm particularly in most traditional tribes. "I'm particularly in most traditional tribes."

"It's an at-risk ecosystem, with at-risk communities. But it is still a very wild place." Mr. Jones was born in Nigeria of English aprents, raised in East Africa and educated in England. "When it came time to put on a suit and go into town," he said, "I came back to Africa." Mr. Jones, 45, has been creating customized tours to the continent for more than 20 years. Wild Philanthropy is his latest venture — an enterprise designed to build sustainable tourism with a mutually beneficial exchange between visitors and the people activation and they visit. Mr. Jones also operates CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The Best of Alaska – Only on Cunard."

10-night Roundtrip Vancouver voyages on luxurious Queen Elizabeth."

Experience the single best Alaska cruise itinerary with scenic cruising through both Tracy Arm Fjord and Hubbard Glacier. Enjoy more time in port to discover the stunning beauty and wildlife, all in one remarkable journey.

- 🕸 -Contact your Travel Agent, call (855) 629-3199 or visit Cunard.com/NYT

©Cunard 2017. Ship's Registry: Bermuda

PURIORER I STUIORIA

Of Rivers and Rituals in the Omo Valley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE!

The only permanent tented camp in the Omo
Valley, not far from Mr. Biwa's village.
This southwestern corner of Ethiopia is
home to seven primary tribes who coexist
with varying degrees of peace. The land is
largedy ofly savanna, with the Omo River
to Lake Thrians on the Kerpy border. The
discovery of human remains dating back
nearly 2.5 million years prompted Unesco
to dub the Lower Valley a World Heritage
site in 1880.

nearly 2.5 million years prompted Unesco use in 1880.

But today the Omo is a region on the state in 1880.

But today the Omo is a region on the creaming the open of the company of the proposed dama sprive. The dama threaten to the creaming the company of the company of the proposed dama sprive. The dama threaten to the company of the company of the company of the proposed dama sprive. The dama threaten to the flood coup failed, Mr. James tool one—'It is the only time anyone can remember that the flood coup failed,' Mr. James tool one—'It is the only time anyone can remember that The area has also fallen victim to hit—and-run tourism— people driving down from the company of the company

ized boat — carrying supplies for an NGO downtriver.

so as on guide, we benedict with the supplies of the NGO downtriver.

Will be the supplies of the suppli

gathered during the war in neighboring Sula-Both they are not cheaps. Mr. Birsw Said.—"How much do they cost?" I asked.
"How much do they cost?" I asked.
"Five cows;" he said.
Beside firearms, I witnessed few other accommodations to the contemporary the grid, news traveled fast throughout the grid and the grid fast of the grid fas

nities. We headed east.
AT THE END of a long, deeply rutted road we came upon a dusty willage in the midst of a celebration. Old men and women gathered in the shade. Young men painted their faces red and white. Young women were draped in skirts and wore large bells wrapped around their calles. Their hair was ornately much a control of the control of

done in rings culed with ochre-colored must Each carried a small horn and blew it manufactured a small horn and blew it may be a small horn and blew it may be a small horn and blew it may be a small horn and horn and horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to hor their horns and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn horn and the celebration continued to nitro the manufactured to horn and horn

ANDREW McCARTHY is the author of the young adult novel "Just Fly Away" and the travel memoir "The Longest Way Home."











tied our engine through the brown water.

"The Nymagatem are livere (githers, They are so water week. Not just with their way. The solution of the solution of



cuts, causing the skin to well in intricate patterns. They made this two mile walk to gatterns. They made this two mile walk to carrying water is women's work.

At the outsiders of the village, a half document of the state of In time, more than a dozen women emerged from the honeycomb-shaped the continue of the continu



mout semoir either. I was offered a spot in the liking.

A ball was being roasted over an open free A ball was being roasted over an open free with machetes hacked the animal to pieces. Chunks of meat and fat, changing to large with machetes hacked the animal to pieces. Chunks of meat and fat, changing to large leaves before the assembled. A part of the animal I couldn't identify was dropped in heavyly piecrod earn and a pointed stick pro-truding below his lower lay offered me his newly piecrod earn and a pointed stick pro-truding below his lower lay offered me his close 1500, the new frame of the part is in my mouth. Just beyond the circle a dozen booded vultures gathered.



The edice topf tailong as Mr. Sieva transwomen and children. A prayer that all had
feelings be carried oil across the river. Atwomen and children. A prayer that all had
feelings be carried oil across the river. Ata deep, guittural moras.

Finalsky, the three mess had been across
a deep, guittural moras.

Finalsky, the three mess the morante of the compart of the compart

FROM FISHERMEN AT Turkana we learned that not far upstream, numerous Daassnach communities had begun to gather for a Dimi ceremony. They had come from miles away for an event that happens only every few years and lasts several weeks — culminating in the act of female circumcision.

'It's an at-risk

We left the boat and were immediately confronted by two dozent resuage boys, each of the confronted by two dozent resuage boys, each off, they happly aboved as the sharp tips of their wespens. We carried on across land for the confronted by the carried to the carried by the c







Daasanach v and a Kara tribeswoman the fields ne