



RUNNING  
*wild*

JOURNEYS THROUGH AFRICA & ASIA'S  
COMMON GROUND

CARRIER

RUNNING  
*wild*

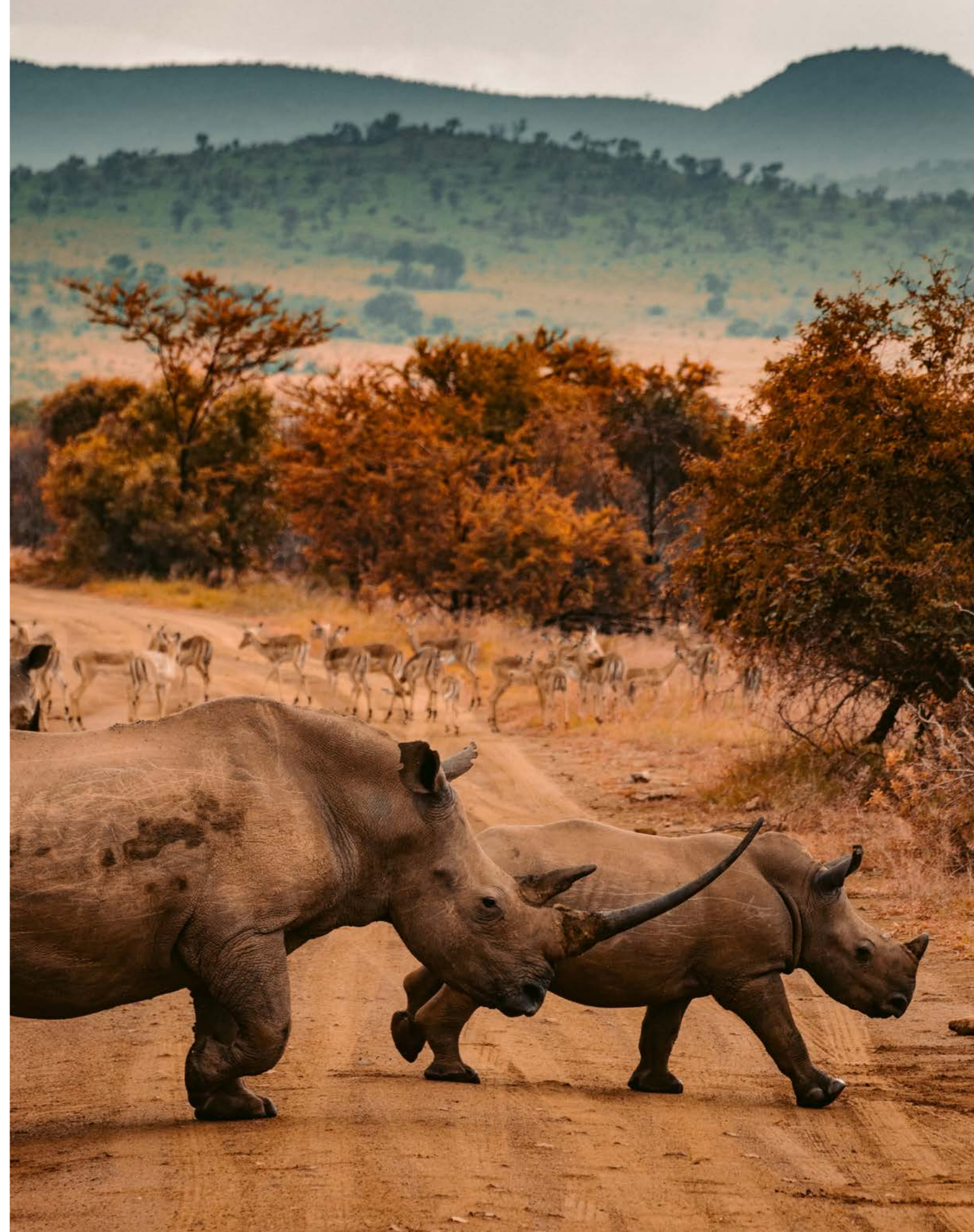
Dedicated to those working to protect our planet and the wondrous wildlife within it, without whom these extraordinary experiences would not be possible.

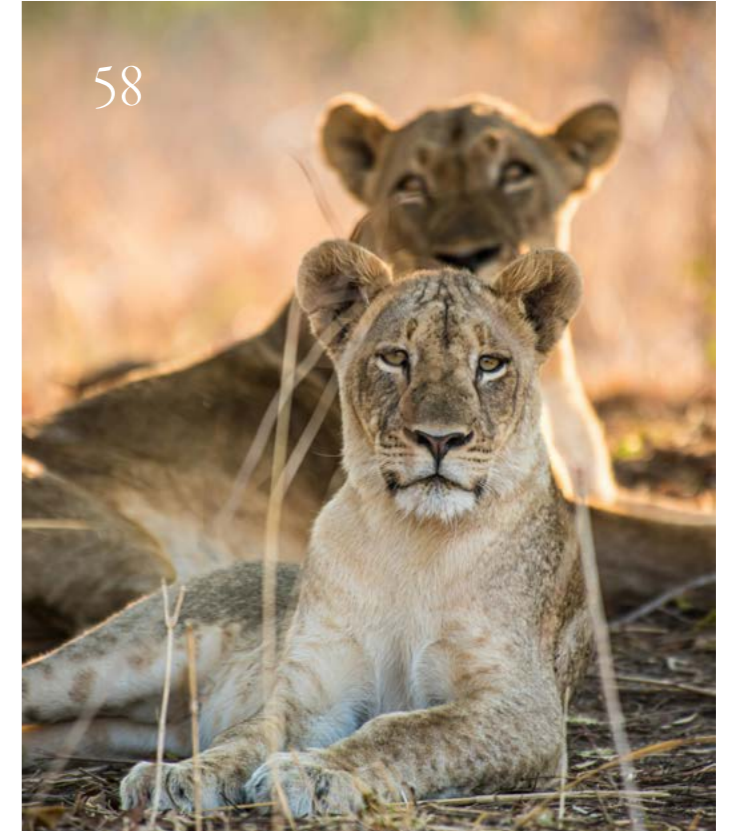
CARRIER

*Take a walk on the wild side*

*Penning the first pages of our tale as Africa specialists some 40 years ago, it's no surprise that an appreciation for awe-inspiring animal encounters easily became part of our story. Tailor-made tours were – and still are – our forte, and today we've grown to curate only the best in bespoke itineraries from all corners of the globe. It takes expertise to pull off the trip of a lifetime, and that's why our team, along with our esteemed travel agent partners across the country, are on hand to add that all-important personal touch to our customers' own chronicles.*

Circling back to our roots, this collection brings together two continents that were once one, and though now separated by miles, millennia and a multitude of cultural identities, have shared similarities ever since. Plotting our way through the vast and varied landscapes of Africa and the Indian subcontinent, allow us the pleasure of opening your eyes to a world of fascinating wildlife.






# Contents



- 8 The foundations of adventure
- 10 How are Africa & Asia connected?
- 12 Get the camera ready for...
- 14 National parks & wildlife reserves
- 18 **Grand wildlife tours**  
 India | From the endangered to the endemic  
 South Africa | Beyond the Big Five
- 28 **Nurturing the natural world**  
 Sri Lanka | A culture of coexistence  
 Rwanda | Gorilla trekking off the beaten track
- 38 **Where safari meets sand-under-feet**  
 Sri Lanka | Tea, sea and safari  
 South Africa & Mozambique |  
 Dusty deserts & glistening shores

- 48 **For the greater good**  
 India | Introducing India: the foray for first timers  
 Kenya | Slowing the pace on safari
- 58 **The insider scoop**  
 Sri Lanka | Bonds of nature  
 Botswana | Wondering at the wild world
- 68 **Hear them roar**  
 India | Looking into the eye of the tiger  
 Zambia | Gems of the Zambezi
- 78 Carrier Cares
- 80 More personalities to know along the way
- 82 Wonderful wildlife across the globe





*These exclusive opportunities are designed to grant new sights, sounds and perspectives. It's this little extra meaning that makes our trips all the more memorable.*

## *The foundations of adventure*

Woven through the following pages are three themes – the pillars that underpin each itinerary in our collection; the values we believe should ground every one of these journeys, no matter how extraordinary the experiences. You'll find conservation, culture and community and privileged access entwined within these chapters, underscoring your future adventures with the responsibilities we each have to the destinations we visit. Whether meeting research pioneers, partaking in wildlife initiatives or learning of lifestyles far from our own, these exclusive opportunities are designed to grant new sights, sounds and perspectives. It's this little extra meaning that makes our trips all the more memorable.

### CONSERVATION

When thinking about wildlife, it's important to consider our ever-changing planet's endangered species. Our contribution to their decline can, and should, be ameliorated by aiding in animal and habitat protection and rewilding projects while on location. Crossing paths with on-the-ground pioneers of research and conservation, discuss their work on adorable sea turtles and laid-back mountain gorillas (to name just a few).

### CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Communities are at the heart of everything we do. Those in-the-know that neighbour national parks offer so much knowledge to enrich our travels, welcoming us with open arms to experience life as Rudyard Kipling imagined. Learn how sharing surroundings with the slightly larger kinds of four-legged friends brings innovative adaptations to ease human-wildlife conflict.

### PRIVILEGED ACCESS

As lovers of luxury, we know our holidays are a cut above the rest. With our worldwide network of connections, it's the exclusive excursions and behind-the-scenes access that elevate our itineraries – a privilege that can't be overstated. Enjoy the ability to visit these far-flung destinations, getting close-ups of incredible wildlife, and only in the company you choose.



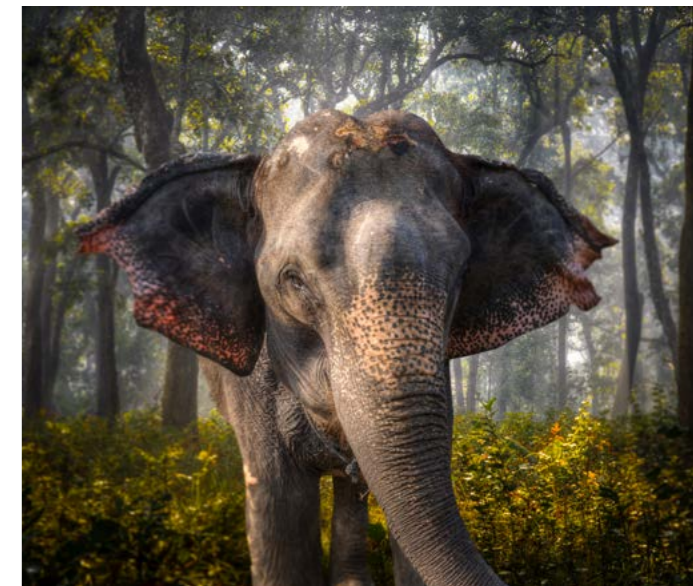
## *How are Africa and Asia connected?*

### TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

You might not know when or where, or even how, but you may have heard of Gondwana. The historic region in India could ring a bell, or a quick search will turn up the game reserve in South Africa, but neither are the one we're talking about. The Gondwana we mean was one of two supercontinents. It's the one that plate tectonics broke into what we know as Australia, Antarctica, South America, Africa and the Indian subcontinent. And it's the reason why the wildlife of the latter two are so intertwined.

With the duo of land masses drifting apart over millions of years, evolution began to work its magic on the animals that once wandered Gondwana together, adapting them to life in the likes of what are now the dusty plains of Africa and the leafy jungles of India and Sri Lanka. While some species retained their overall look, qualities like size, colour and habitat preference changed to align with the differing climates – think the ears of elephants and the fur of leopards. The result: both destinations being blessed with similar animals in different guises.

Going even further, both places saw different, more unique species emerging, and evolving alongside them were the colourful cultures that we associate with these countries today. Now with their own identities, beliefs and customs, it can sometimes be hard to believe these regions were once connected. But for all of their differences, there's always one thing both have in common – an unsurpassed love of their wildlife. And, as the continents continue to move to this day, so too do the initiatives to protect it.



*Get the camera ready for...*

Prides of powerful *lions* lazing in the sun | A glimpse of an elusive *leopard* prowling through the undergrowth | Tracking down the bulky forms of a crash of *rhinoceros* | Marvelling at the majesty of earth's largest land animal, the *elephant* | Counting the amount of horns in a herd of *buffalo* | Meeting the amber eyes of a *tiger* through the trees | The silhouette of a *sloth bear* against the fading light of dusk | A glimmering cloud of mist as *blue whales* breach the tranquil ocean surface | Fluffy *cheetah* cubs playing in the grass | The sentinel *meerkat* dutifully looking out for its family from the best vantage point | That magical moment when the leaves part to reveal a *gorilla* family in their mountainous refuge | Capturing the playful nature of *dolphins* as they zip through the water | The hidden *hyena* betrayed by that distinctive giggle





## *National parks & wildlife reserves*

Africa and the Indian subcontinent have their fair share of variations, and their approaches to where wildlife roams are no different. To get a picture of a safari in each destination, it's good to briefly understand how India and Sri Lanka's national parks differ from those in Africa and its wildlife reserves.

Despite being overseen by the government and managed by dedicated authorities, India and Sri Lanka's national parks are open and easily accessible to everyone. That doesn't equal overcrowding though; divided into zones and routes, venturing to quieter areas makes for a more exclusive experience – elevated by the addition of expert guides.

Across the ocean, Africa has its own fair share of national parks, but inside these vast borders are smaller, more intimate reserves, concessions and conservancies. In contrast, these are privately owned or managed and commonly only accessed by one specific lodge, making game drives less crowded and allowing for more leisurely time while out and about.

There are many wild and wonderful parks and reserves, numerous of which are within these pages. But if you're after a place to start, these are some of our favourites.



**BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK, INDIA**

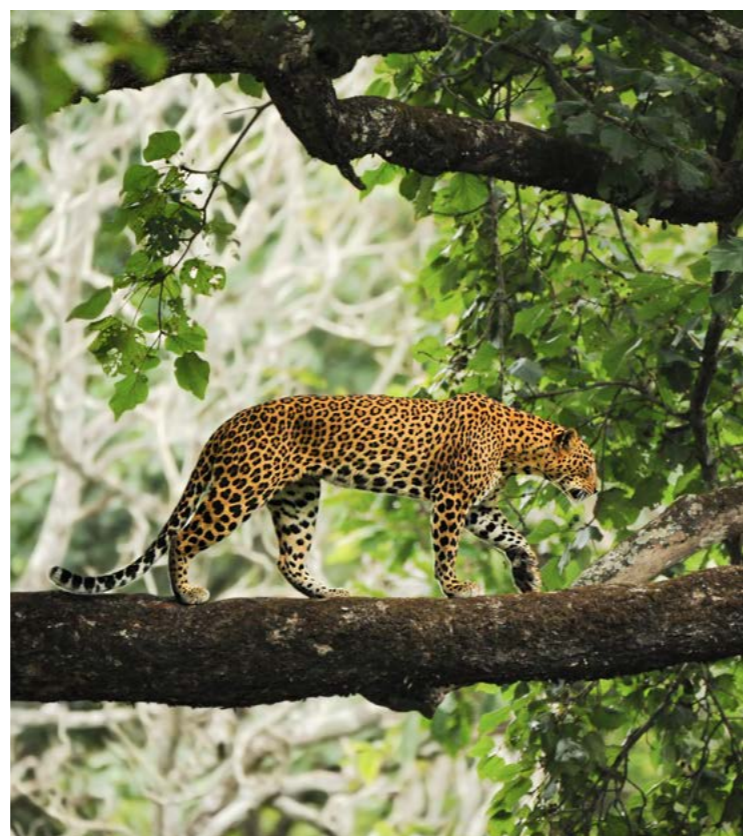
Believed to be the cradle of the striking white tiger – though spotting one nowadays is unlikely, stumbling across mysterious statues and the ancient 2,000-year-old fort isn't off the cards.

**KANHA NATIONAL PARK, INDIA**

Blessed with rich flora and stunning sunsets, this national park isn't all just good looks. It's a stronghold for the endangered barasingha deer and home to the native Baiga tribe.

**RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK, INDIA**

Ranthambore has come full circle with its wildlife. Once the private hunting ground of the Maharaja, it now takes the crown when it comes to tiger spotting in Rajasthan.



**YALA NATIONAL PARK, SRI LANKA**

Wildlife thrives in Yala's diverse habitats, not only earning it the credit of being a must-visit spot for all nature lovers, but also of being the leopard capital of Sri Lanka.

**WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK, SRI LANKA**

The biggest and oldest of the country's national parks, Wilpattu translates to 'land of the lakes', taking its name from the myriad of watering holes (Villus) that sustain its wildlife.

**TSWALU KALAHARI PRIVATE WILDLIFE RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA**

Surrounded by endless rolling dunes and red Kalahari sands, South Africa's largest private game reserve embodies exclusivity, with a maximum of only 10 vehicles permitted out at one time.

**MOREMI GAME RESERVE, BOTSWANA**

The beating heart of the Okavango Delta, Moremi is at its peak when the seasonal floods hit. Vast and varied, smaller concessions make exploring this UNESCO site a more private experience.

**SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA**

The 'Valley of the Leopards' may be modest in size, but that just makes for more encounters. Regarded as the birthplace of walking safaris, be sure to pack comfy footwear.

**VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, RWANDA**

Below these misty peaks live around half of the world's mountain gorillas, alongside the likes of golden monkeys and forest elephants. It's also the final resting place of primatologist Dian Fossey.

**OLARE MOTOROGI CONSERVANCY, KENYA**

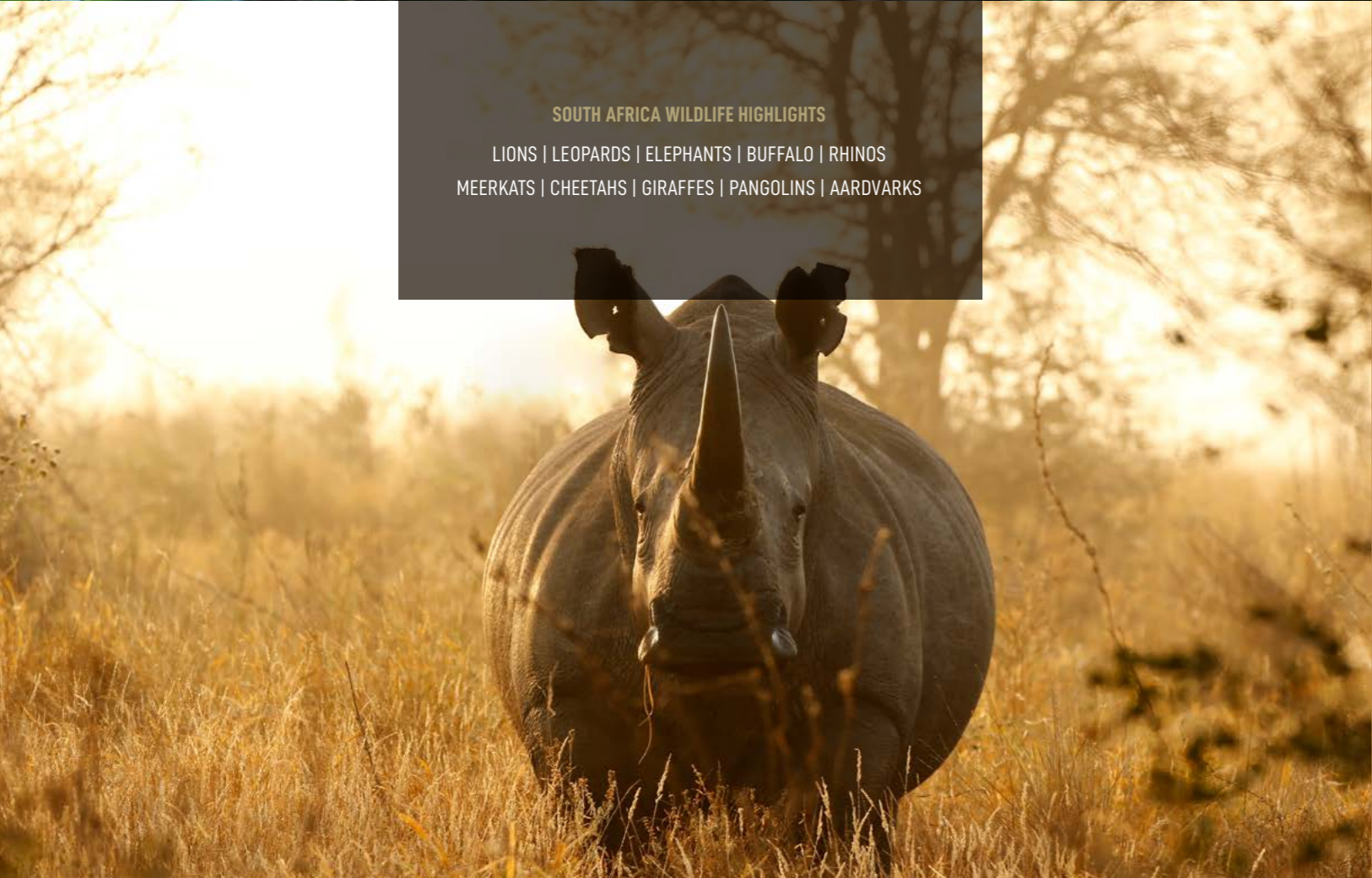
On the fringes of the Maasai Mara, this area is a conservation success story, being brought back from overgrazing to become an invaluable environment for both wildlife and local tribes.





**INDIA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

ONE-HORNED RHINOS | ELEPHANTS | TIGERS | ASIATIC LIONS  
BUFFALO | SLOTH BEARS | GANGES DOLPHINS | BARASINGHA  
GAURS | BIRDLIFE



**SOUTH AFRICA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

LIONS | LEOPARDS | ELEPHANTS | BUFFALO | RHINOS  
MEERKATS | CHEETAHS | GIRAFFES | PANGOLINS | AARDVARKS

*For creatures great and small.*

## *Grand wildlife tours*

Going toe-to-toe for the affections of safari buffs the world over, both South Africa and India have aces up their sleeves. One has meerkats, the other has river dolphins, one has vast open plains while the other has urban jungles, and each has their own version of a land-based Big Five. After a glimpse of the following wildlife-rich journeys, though, the decision proves not to be which one to pick, but simply which one to pick first.



**BEST FOR:** Like-minded twosomes with a love of nature  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking & jeep | **EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Seasoned safari-goers

## From the endangered to the endemic

The journey through these ecosystems is an epic one, undertaken mostly by those ready to be fully immersed into Mother Nature's finest. On the agenda are some of the best national parks, including some underdogs, where eight vulnerable mammals and a host of indigenous species play hide and seek within their borders. It's time to go big or go home.

After a short stop in Delhi, Kaziranga opens its proverbial doors in aid of seeking the likes of one-horned rhinos, barasingha and water buffalo. Kolkata is up next, turning back the clock with the history of tea before Asiatic lions steal the show in Gir National Park. Later, expert-led game drives around the lesser-trodden Satpura and Bori National Parks then make way to rounding the trip off in Mumbai – an unlikely haven for wildlife.

*A land of versatility, India isn't short of showstoppers, yet shake off the spell of its cityscapes and you'll find none are more beguiling than its unique natural habitats.*

## Itinerary highlights

Indulge all five senses on a tour of Delhi, taking in its beautiful architecture, fragrant cuisine and bustling markets.

Sit down for a cup of tea with one of Delhi's most renowned guides, Ms Parveen Paul, who has been in the industry for almost four decades.

Drive out in search of Kaziranga's most famed residents from sloth bears and elephants to more unfamiliar species like the Ganges dolphin and 70% of the world's one-horned rhino.

Get an insight into Kolkata's tea heritage with Husna-Tara Prakash whose family has been in the business for years.

Take to the streets of Kolkata with local guide and artisan Nayana Gangooly who knows all the best places to go and the most intriguing people.

Tour Mumbai's urban jungle and learn how the city's locals live alongside a surprising amount of wildlife.

Join the local park trackers known as 'Pagis' in Gir National Park to hear about how they help to conserve the wildlife, including bringing Asiatic lions back from the brink.

A trained naturalist and ornithologist, Aly Rashid leads game drives around Satpura National Park, making for an exclusive and personalised experience.



From top: The Imperial, Diphlu River Lodge, Glenburn Penthouse



From top: Aramness Safari Lodge, Bori Safari Lodge

## Where you'll stay

17 nights | approx. 40hrs transfers | 8 locations

**EXPLORING:** Kaziranga National Park | Gir National Park | Satpura Tiger Reserve | Bori Wildlife Sanctuary



### Day 1-2

#### The Imperial, Delhi

Processional rows of palms form a grand walkway to the entrance, which in turn leads to an interior rich in rare antiques and art from the 18th and 19th centuries.

### Day 3-5

#### Diphlu River Lodge, Kaziranga

With its eco-sensitive design, Diphlu have been careful to ensure the wildlife corridors in their beloved environment remain undisturbed. With no fences, nature here feels closer than ever.

### Day 6-7

#### Glenburn Penthouse, Kolkata

With a tea-rich past, time here is centred around learning of its history and life in Old Kolkata. Experiences focus on music, dance, cuisine and, of course, tea.

### Day 8-10

#### Aramness Safari Lodge, Gir

Perched just outside of the world's only Asiatic lion sanctuary, its surroundings have been a big inspiration here; from the artwork hanging in each villa to the immersive guided forest walks.

### Day 11

#### The Oberoi Gurgaon

Opulence pervades this Lutyens-inspired residence sitting pretty on the outskirts of Delhi. Feast on lavish Indian cuisine at Jamavar and indulge in the Spa by ESPA.

### Day 12-13

#### Reni Pani Jungle Lodge, Satpura

From its plum position in Satpura National Park, Reni Pani is the place to revel in activities that other national parks can't offer – including night game drives and boat safaris.

### Day 14-15

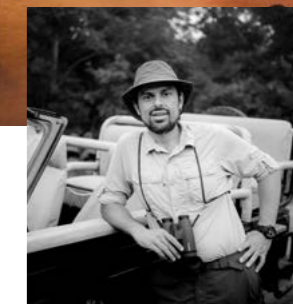
#### Bori Safari Lodge, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

As the sanctuary has become an emerging tiger stronghold, the Bori Safari Lodge has become one of the best places to see them – all while nestled within a cosy village-like atmosphere.

### Day 16-18

#### The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Built in 1903, this architectural marvel brings together Moorish, Far Eastern and Florentine styles, showcasing contemporary Indian influences.



### Local connector

#### Aly Rashid

Owner of Bori Safari Lodge

"Satpura National Park and Pachmarhi Sanctuary make for unique central Indian highland forest landscapes and make up the largest tiger reserves in the state."



**BEST FOR:** Conservation enthusiasts & seekers of rare wildlife  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, horseback & jeep  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Safari first-timers & easy-going repeaters

## Beyond the Big Five

Already one of the largest privately-owned Big Five areas in the country, after expanding its borders, more wildlife now wanders Kwandwe Private Game Reserve than ever. The usual suspects of lions, leopards, buffalo and elephants are of course highlights on a game viewing foray, but none are closer to Kwandwe's heart than the rhinoceros. Getting involved with both the conservation of the species and meeting the experts is a big focus during time here.

One private charter later and Tswalu Kalahari Game Reserve comes into view, bringing with it the chance to find animals that may not be as famous as their neighbours but are no less captivating. From meerkats to bat-eared foxes, to get a glimpse, guided walking and horseback safaris replace jumping inside the conventional jeep.

*Africa's leading lineup attracts naturalists from near and far, but it's the charismatic cast of supporting characters that keep them coming back for more.*

## Itinerary highlights

Led by an eco-team specialist, drive out into Kwandwe's land to observe and learn about the population of black and white rhinos.

Get hands-on during a half-day conservation safari that tracks, monitors and assesses Kwandwe's rhino population.

Customise a walking safari to your personal tastes, from tracking large game animals to discovering the smaller, often overlooked insect life.

Head out into both reserves on private game drives with in-the-know guides.

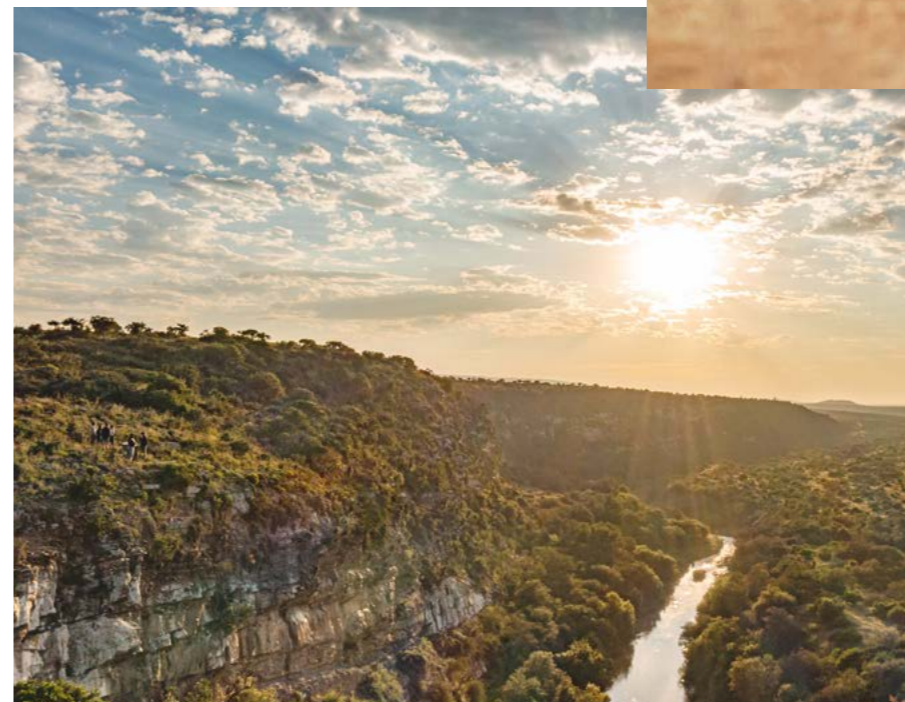
Wander on foot to multiple sites of rock art that Tswalu protects, featuring engravings, cupules and paintings of people and animals.

Visit a group of habituated meerkats in the morning to observe their wake-up routines before returning to watch them play at dusk.

Dine at Klein JAN restaurant, whose dishes celebrate the heritage and contemporary culture of South Africa.

Saddle up to experience Tswalu's landscape on horseback for a unique take on a safari.

Seek out Africa's elusive nocturnal residents after dark, including pangolins, brown hyena, armadillos, armadillos and bat-eared foxes.





From top: Loapi Tented Camp, Great Fish River Lodge



*Local connector*

**Craig Sholto-Douglas**  
Kwandwe's Environmental Manager

"I firmly believe in the importance of technology, community involvement, and habitat protection for rhino conservation, and that continued innovation in these areas is essential for ensuring the survival of wild rhinos for future generations."  
While visiting Kwandwe, join Craig and the conservation team on a half-day safari to track and monitor the rhino population. Helping to take scientific measurements, fit tracking equipment and ensure the animals are in good health.

From top: Great Fish River Lodge

*Where you'll stay*

8 nights | approx. 3hrs 20mins transfers | 2 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Kwandwe Private Game Reserve | Tswalu Kalahari Reserve



**Day 1-4**

**Great Fish River Lodge,  
Kwandwe Private Game Reserve**

The home of seclusion and tranquillity, quiet moments can be spent on the expansive viewing deck overlooking the Great Fish River, watching elephants and buffalo come to drink.

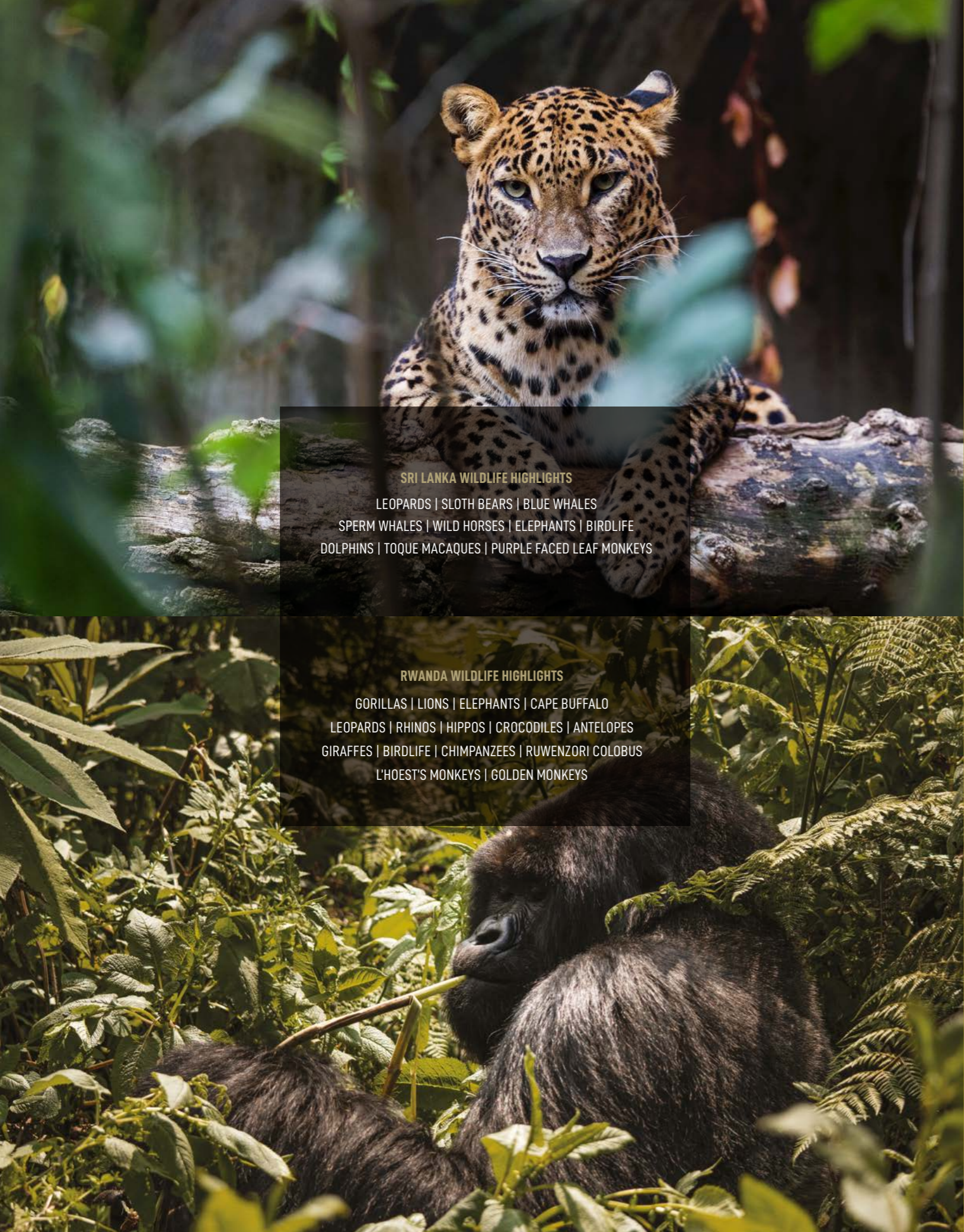
**Day 5-9**

**Loapi Tented Camp,  
Tswalu Kalahari Reserve**

Disappear into nomadic life in this eco-friendly camp, where one- and two-bedroom cocoon-like homes are surrounded by open grassland, with only a personal butler and private chef to disturb you.

**Pinch me moment:** Visit the research centre to learn about the Tswalu Foundation's projects.





**SRI LANKA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

LEOPARDS | SLOTH BEARS | BLUE WHALES  
SPERM WHALES | WILD HORSES | ELEPHANTS | BIRDLIFE  
DOLPHINS | TOQUE MACAQUES | PURPLE FACED LEAF MONKEYS

**RWANDA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

GORILLAS | LIONS | ELEPHANTS | CAPE BUFFALO  
LEOPARDS | RHINOS | HIPPOS | CROCODILES | ANTELOPES  
GIRAFFES | BIRDLIFE | CHIMPANZEES | RUWENZORI COLOBUS  
L'HOEST'S MONKEYS | GOLDEN MONKEYS

*Behind the luxury of a safari escape lies  
a chain of complex conservation efforts.*

## *Nurturing the natural world*

In our ever-changing world, our relationship with safari is increasingly symbiotic. We know all too well that seeing eye-to-eye with animals in their natural habitat remains under threat. And yet, the work of on-the-ground conservationists continues to see flora and fauna thrive. It's these efforts to protect and preserve Mother Nature's design that flow throughout this chapter; sharing the ways, whys, and whos creating a positive impact you'll want to be a part of.



### Itinerary highlights

Take a tour of living history as you wander through Galle Fort, learning of the international influences behind this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Head to Sinharaja Forest Reserve by helicopter to meet the researchers working to protect its tropical flora and fauna.

Spot blue whales, sperm whales and spinner dolphins against a blanket of sea blue on a private yacht excursion.

Mix with the community members of Yala National Park to learn how locals live side by side with leopards.

Explore the ancient ruins of lost civilisations in Kumana National Park; hidden in the jungle lie 30-metre-long sleeping Buddha statues.

Forage in the forest for key ingredients before cooking up a traditional Sri Lankan storm in the outdoor jungle kitchen.

Meet the naturalists upholding harmony in Anuradhapura; share in their knowledge of the human-elephant conflict and see how you contribute to its success.

Tour the UNESCO-protected city of Polonnaruwa on two wheels, exploring the castles and temples taken over by cheeky monkeys.

Fly on an excursion to Delft Island; largely unchanged since the Dutch rule, see 500 wild horses roaming free.



**BEST FOR:** The conservation-conscious  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, jeep, boat & air  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Well-travelled wanderers in couples or friend groups

## A culture of coexistence

One for the seasoned safari-goers and Attenborough enthusiasts alike, a journey through the jungles of Sri Lanka is an adventure of understanding. Taking an extraordinary approach to the nature-first character of conservation, learn how communities live alongside the likes of elephants and leopards, choosing to fortify their own farmlands to let wildlife wander.

Sharing in both successes and solutions, begin in the historical capital of Galle, surrounded by the 17th-century ramparts of Galle Fort. An exploration to cover land, sea and air follows, so expect to safari in every way imaginable: identify new flora and fauna on foot in the Sinharaja Rainforest; experience an early-morning jeep ride to spy deer, buffalo and crocodiles in Yala National Park; hop on a boat safari in Gal Oya; and take to the skies to see the wild horses of Delft Island.

*On an island where Earth's largest animals roam freely and ancient ruins lie concealed by a canopy of rainforests, meet the communities whose neighbours never forget – or change their spots.*





From top: Gal Oya Lodge, Uga Chena Huts, Amangalla



From top: Wallawwa, Ulagalla Resort



## Where you'll stay

15 nights | approx. 10hrs 45mins transfers | 6 locations

**EXPLORING:** Yala National Park | Gal Oya National Park | Wilpattu National Park | Kumana National Park | Minneriya National Park



### Day 1-4

#### Amangalla, Galle

Set within the ramparts of Galle Fort, this 17th-century UNESCO site holds much of its original character; light, bright and airy, contemporary colonial suites overlook historic, harbour or garden views.

### Day 5-7

#### Uga Chena Huts, Yala

Bordering a saline lake home to ibis and a beach where turtles lay their eggs by moonlight, here, intimate clearings in the jungle are the setting for utter exclusivity.

### Day 8-9

#### Gal Oya Lodge, Gal Oya National Park

Neighbouring the unspoilt jungles of Gal Oya National Park, this lodge is lovingly community-focused; living alongside the Veddha, expect a slow-paced and personalised stay in remote surroundings.

**Pinch me moment:** Wander the jungle dwellings of the Veddha with the village chief, learning the lifestyle of this nature-loving indigenous community.

### Day 10-12

#### Ulagalla Resort, Anuradhapura

A 150-year-old manor house as its centrepiece, 58-acres of verdant gardens lie outstretched close to Sri Lanka's cultural triangle, concealing a boutique collection of private villas among organic paddy fields.

**Pinch me moment:** Watch in awe at one of the world's largest elephant migrations, as hundreds assemble for 'The Gathering' at Minneriya Wewa reservoir.

### Day 13-14

#### Leopard Trails Bespoke Tented Safaris, Wilpattu National Park

Southwest of Sri Lanka's oldest and largest national park, 12 tents form the luxury safari lodgings of Leopard Trails – the place to spot big cats as the name suggests.

### Day 15-16

#### Wallawwa, Kotugoda

Enveloped by tropical gardens on all sides, Wallawwa provides a boutique-style sanctuary in a lovingly converted manor house; expect just 18 rooms, gourmet dining and a jungle pool.



### Local connector

#### Noel Rodrigo

The 'Leopard Man' of Sri Lanka and founder of Leopard Safaris Camps

"Leopards are very adaptable and about 60% of the Sri Lankan leopards live outside of national park areas, often very close to human settlements. It is us humans who have encroached into their habitats, so it is our duty to learn to adapt and safely live among them."



**BEST FOR:** Ticking off the bucket list | **SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, jeep & boat  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Active couples and older families

## Gorilla trekking off the beaten track

To think of Rwanda is to think of its national parks: the success story of Akagera; Africa's oldest rainforest at Nyungwe; and the work of Dian Fossey at Volcanoes National Park. Paired with bountiful bucket-list activities, it's all too easy to be enraptured by the animal kingdom.

Kigali is the place to start. A capital city of art, architecture and bustling markets, begin by paying respect to the past at the Genocide Museum and Memorial, recognising the cause, tragedy and successful rebuilding that shaped the country following civil war. When it's time to take a walk on the wild side, head to Akagera National Park. A thriving example of conservation in action, this is the place to spot the Big Five on safari. After some much-deserved downtime, seek out mountain gorillas at Volcanoes National Park.

*Home to species so similar to our own, Rwanda is undoubtedly the destination for gorilla trekking, and there's so much more to see besides.*



### Itinerary highlights

First take the time to understand Rwanda's history in the capital, Kigali; gain a sense of the scale of tragedy and successful rebuilding at the Genocide Memorial.

Embrace the adrenaline – or pluck up the courage – for a canopy walk through the treetops of Nyungwe Forest National Park, watching for Colobus monkeys and keeping an ear to birdsong.

Awake with the sunrise and hike to the heart of the tropical rainforest for the best chance to see chimpanzees; synonymous with the Nyungwe Forest, troops are often spotted together.

Briefed by resident conservationist Charles Nsabimana, begin the day with Rwandan coffee before embarking on an exciting gorilla trek to see one of 12 families living in Volcanoes National Park.

Feel the legacy of Dian Fossey in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Fossey Fund conservation gallery and scientific lab – and, of course, take the opportunity to quiz the experts.

Trek to the base of the Virunga mountain ranges to be surrounded by golden monkeys; a rare and endangered species, watch as they busy around their only remaining natural habitat.



From top: The Retreat by Heaven, One&Only Nyungwe, Wilderness Magashi



From top: Singita Kwitonda Lodge, One&Only Nyungwe House, Singita Kwitonda Lodge



## Where you'll stay

11 nights | approx. 9hrs 55mins transfers | 5 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Akagera National Park | Nyungwe Forest National Park |  
 Volcanoes National Park



### Day 1

#### The Retreat by Heaven, Kigali

Aesthetically pleasing; proudly independent: this boutique-darling likes to treat guests to a taste of local life in between their poolside pauses. Think neighbourhood art walks and hands-on banana wine making.

### Day 2-4

#### Wilderness Magashi Camp, Akagera National Park

Looking to the Mutumba mountains over the waters of Lake Rwanyakazinga, this eight-suite addition to Akagera National Park perches on the Magashi peninsula; an exclusive spot for private safari adventures.

### Day 5-6

#### One&Only Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest National Park

A tranquil tea plantation at the edge of a million-year-old rainforest, the One&Only Nyungwe House epitomises contemporary African flair and grants easy access to a population of primates.

### Day 7-8

#### Cleo Lake Kivu Hotel, Kibuye

There's a grown-up air about the boutique collection of rooms spilling down the hillside into the glassy waters of Lake Kivu, the waters of which invite adventures no land-based lodge can.

### Day 9-12

#### Singita Kwitonda Lodge, Volcanoes National Park

No stone is left unturned in the finer details; a telescope sits on the terrace waiting to be trained on the wildlife, while cosy corners beckon to curl up despite the open-plan aesthetic.

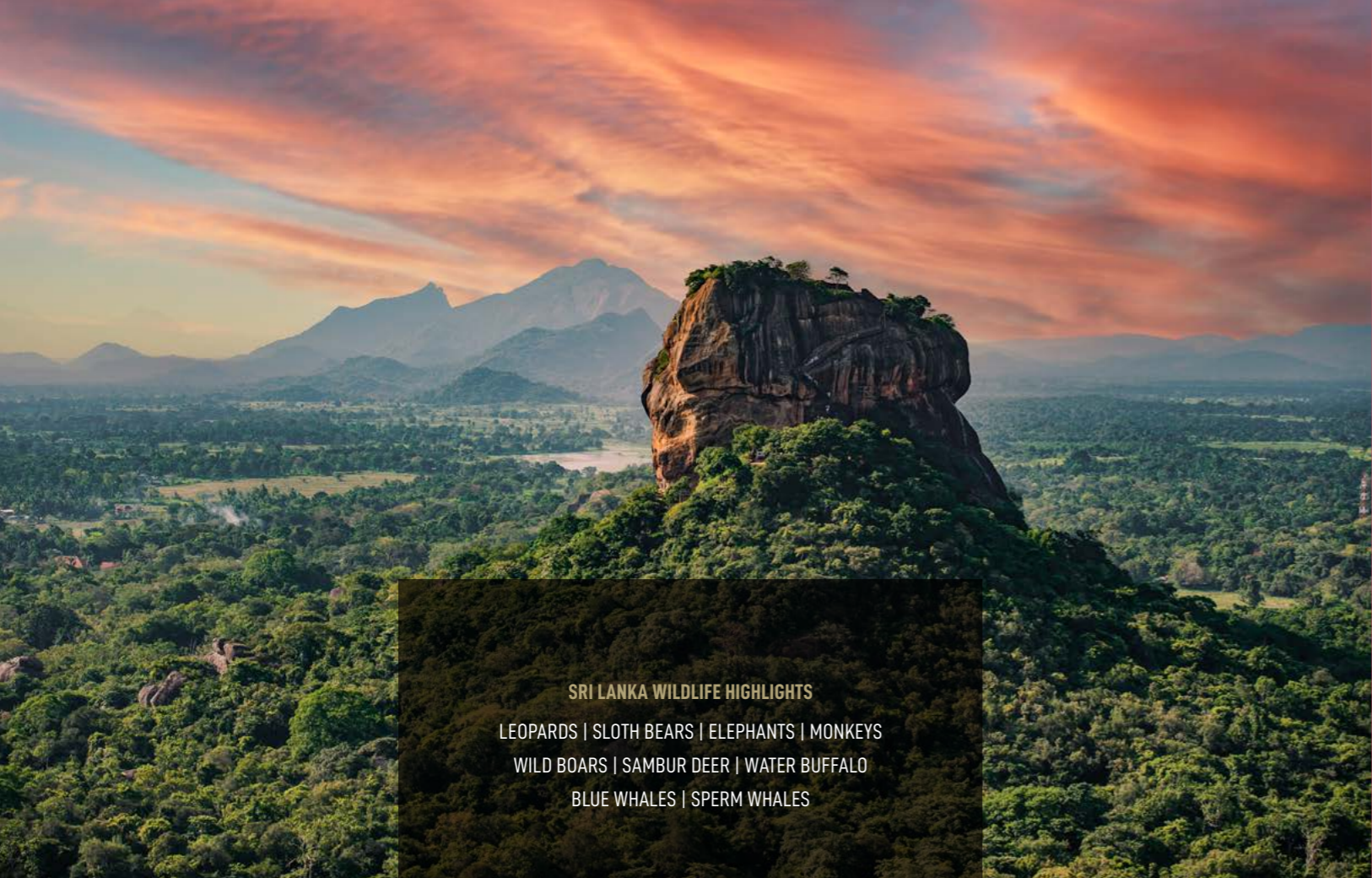
**Pinch me moment:** Meet the veterinarians monitoring and treating the mountain gorillas of Rwanda, with exclusive access to their research facility in Musanze.

### Local connector

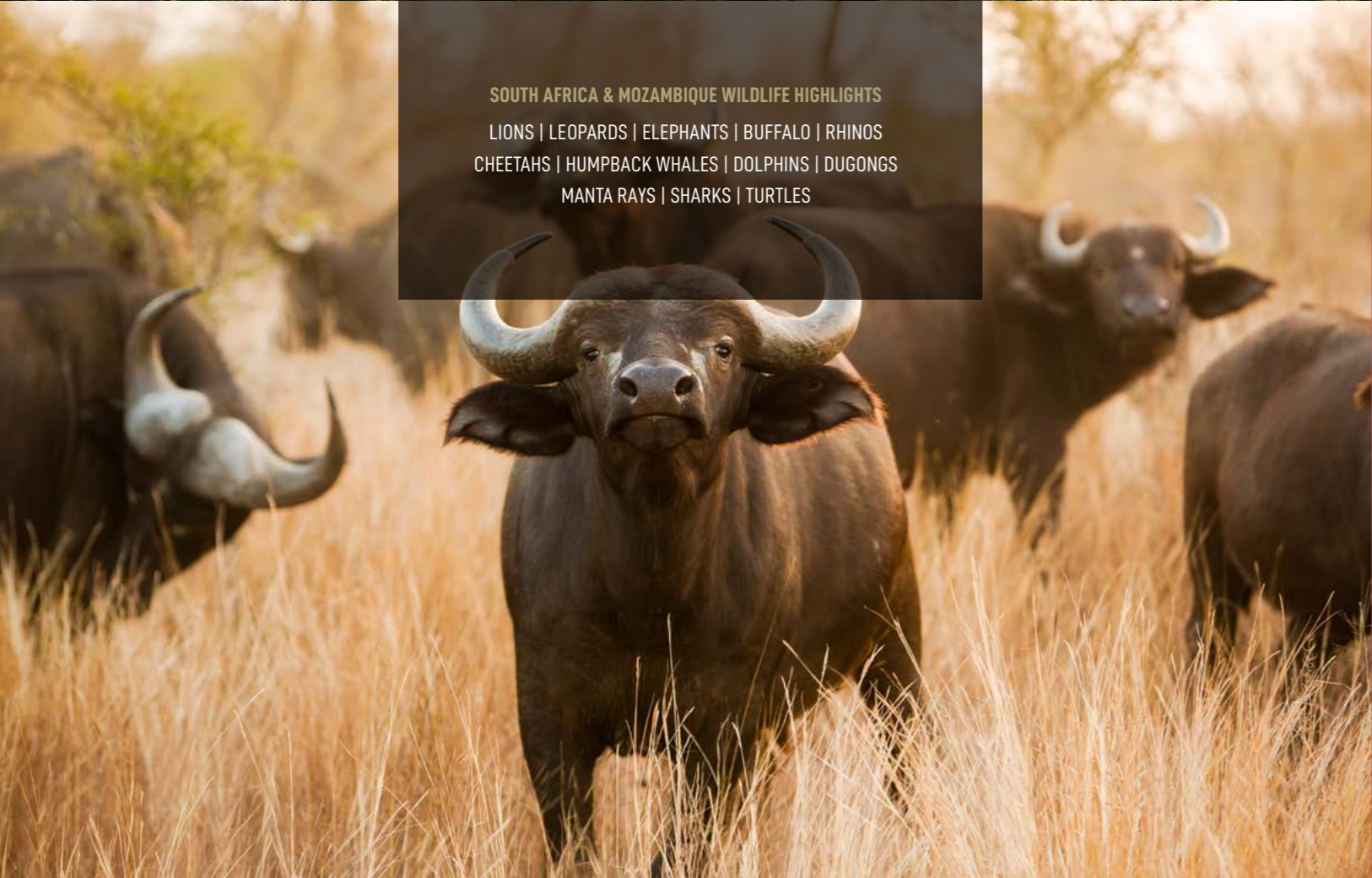
#### Charles Nsabimana

Resident Conservationist at Singita Volcanoes National Park

"If we take care of nature, nature will take care of us in return."



**SRI LANKA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
LEOPARDS | SLOTH BEARS | ELEPHANTS | MONKEYS  
WILD BOARS | SAMBUR DEER | WATER BUFFALO  
BLUE WHALES | SPERM WHALES

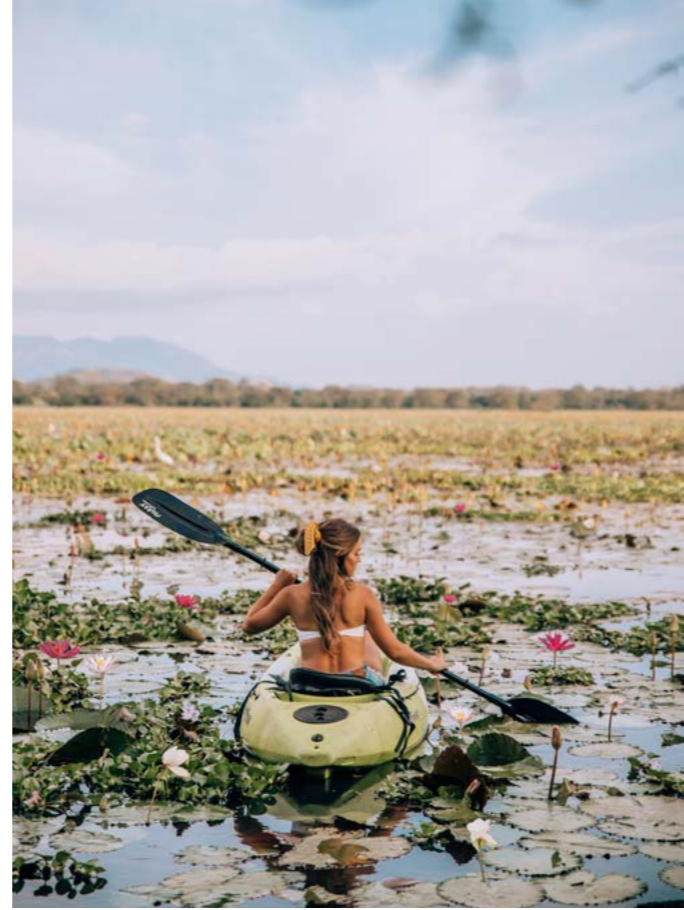


**SOUTH AFRICA & MOZAMBIQUE WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
LIONS | LEOPARDS | ELEPHANTS | BUFFALO | RHINOS  
CHEETAHS | HUMPBACK WHALES | DOLPHINS | DUGONGS  
MANTA RAYS | SHARKS | TURTLES

*A sprinkle of wildlife, a dash of tropical sun,  
and a dose of cultural enlightenment –  
sometimes one type of tour just isn't enough.*

*Where safari meets  
sand-under-feet*

Drifting seamlessly from close-up encounters on early morning game drives to late evening cocktails and private dinners on porcelain beaches; this timeless formula is beloved by both tenderfoot travellers and those who simply like to mix things up. Even the best can be improved though. Take the itineraries in this chapter for instance, where ventures out to local towns and ancient ruins appease the heritage seekers in the midst. There's no need to compromise on a trip like this.



### Itinerary highlights

Cycle through the ancient capital of Anuradhapura with a local guide, visiting temples and off-the-tourist-track locations.

Seek the wild inhabitants of the country's largest national park – Wilpattu.

Follow a historian around the ruins of Polonnaruwa city, now taken over by troops of monkeys.

Soar over the winding roads and picture-perfect tea estates of Hill Country in a helicopter.

Learn the age-old process of making tea first-hand, from discovering the rules of tea picking to exploring the factory where fresh leaves are converted into black tea.

Experience the lush landscape from the water on a kayak trip on Castlereagh Lake.

Head out on a private game drive in Yala National Park with a naturalist to spot wildlife including leopards, elephants and sloth bears.

Visit Lunugamvehera National Park for a morning to search for Asian elephants.

Head to a pottery village where a family of master potters teach the secrets of their terracotta designs.



**BEST FOR:** The culturally curious & globetrotting teenage families

**SAFARI TYPES:** Jeep

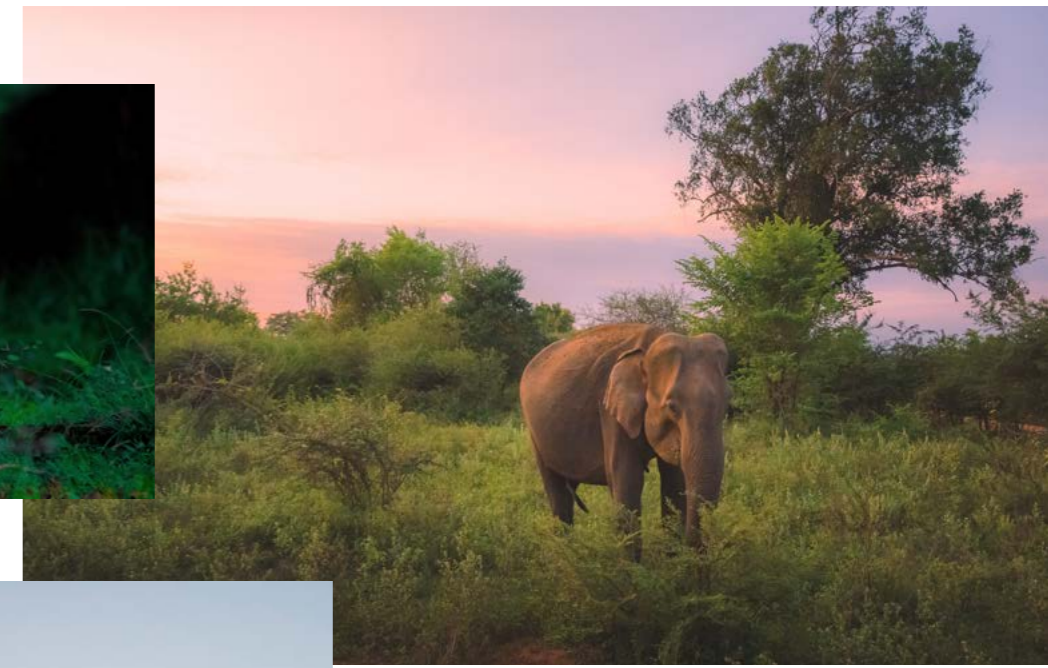
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Laid-back with a hint of adventure

## Tea, sea and safari

Often considered to be its neighbour in miniature, Sri Lanka holds the same wonders as India but on a smaller, more manageable scale. With an easy-going pace and cosier distances (as well as its own unique personality), it's the perfect place to dip toes into a world of diverse culture and, of course, wildlife – with a splash of beachy idling to top things off.

Begin by venturing inland to explore the ruins of two of Sri Lanka's former capitals before heading further south to the leafy Hill Country. Spend time learning about the journey from tea leaf to cup, before embracing the wild side on a guided safari with the chance to spot the likes of leopards and Asian elephants. The trip ends with blissful seclusion on an idyllic, palm-fringed beach.

*A verdant teardrop of tea plantations, golden coasts, UNESCO World Heritage sites and thick wildlife-loaded jungles, Sri Lanka has it all for both the adventure seekers and Indian subcontinent newcomers.*





From top: Ceylon Tea Trails, Uga Ulagalla



From top: Amanwella, Uga Chena Huts



Local connector

**Dr Prithviraj 'Pruthu' Fernando,**  
Scientist

“Like humans, animals change their behaviour and adapt to new conditions. Therefore, managing and conserving them requires monitoring and studying them. This is particularly important in human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Actions taken without assessing their impact on animals and how animals respond to them, are likely to be ineffective and detrimental to conservation.”

## Where you'll stay

13 nights | approx. 8hrs 30mins transfers | 4 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Wilpattu National Park | Yala National Park



### Day 1-4

#### Uga Ulagalla, Anuradhapura

Settled within peaceful paddy fields, this 150-year-old eco-friendly manor house in the hamlet of Thirappane offers its guests convenient access to the highlights of Sri Lanka's historic cultural triangle.

**Pinch me moment:** Enjoy a Kamatha dining experience in a rice paddy pavilion.

### Day 5-7

#### Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton

A former plantation restored to become the world's first tea bungalow resort, inside, four distinct residencies decorated with period furnishings open directly onto flower-filled gardens and feature wide verandas.

### Day 8-10

#### Uga Chena Huts, Yala

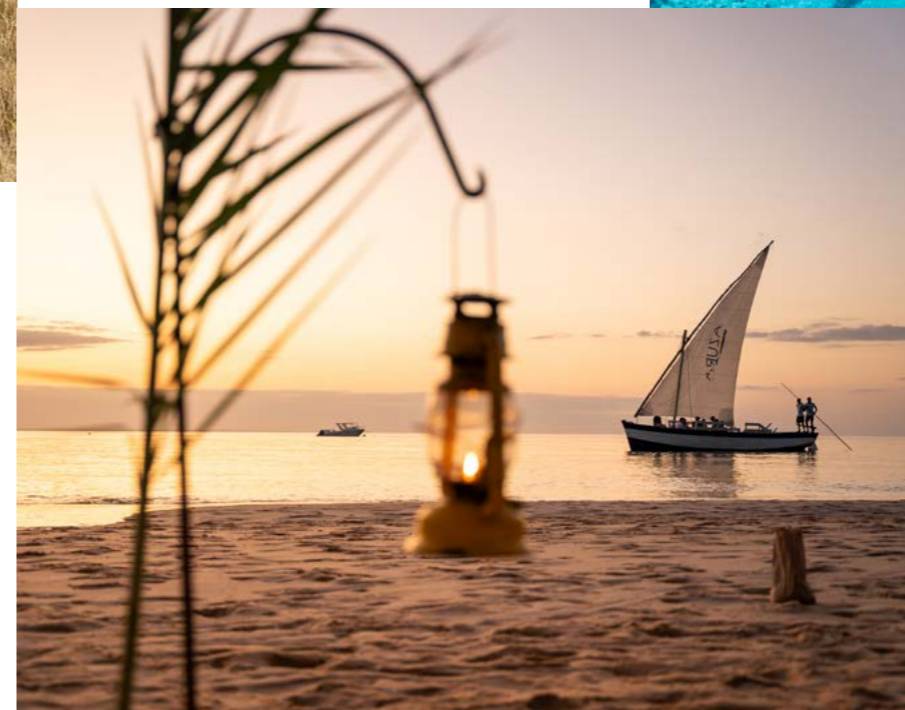
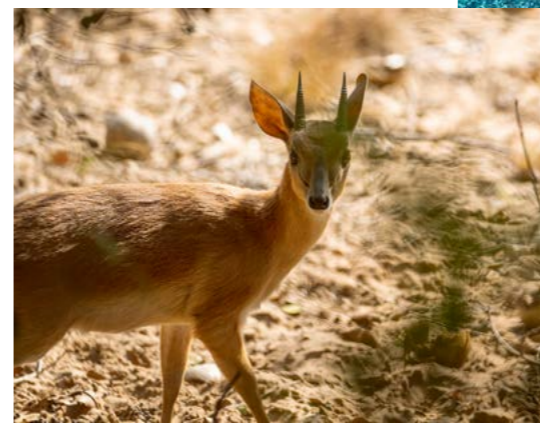
Emerging out of the jungle, these thatched lakeside hideaways house just 28 guests, filling their days with lounging by the pool and venturing out in search of wildlife.

### Day 11-14

#### Amanwella, Tangalle

In true Aman style, this exclusive property is a lesson in both style and tranquillity, with its expansive pool overlooking the ocean while in turn being overlooked by the panoramic restaurant.

**Pinch me moment:** Explore the UNESCO Galle Fort with a resident expert.



**BEST FOR:** A dynamic duo | **SAFARI TYPES:** Jeep  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** First-timer friendly

## Dusty deserts and glistening shores

The power couple of touring trips, even the most seasoned of adventurers can't resist the lure of unwinding on soft sand after a few days of early morning safaris. Starting in South Africa's first private nature reserve, Sabi Sands, conservation rubs shoulders with exclusive experiences interspersed with game drives in pursuit of the likes of giraffes, zebras and the Big Five – especially leopards.

Leaving the savannah behind, the jewel-bright waters surrounding Benguerra Island off the coast of Mozambique come into view from the window of a helicopter. Though generous with its relaxation time, wildlife isn't left to play second fiddle. Snorkelling unearths a world of psychedelic marine life, sailing the nearby isles increases chances of spotting an endangered dugong, and humpback whales swim by on their migration route.

*From bushveld to beach, the duality of this classic trip has finally come close to fulfilling the lifelong quest to find the best of both worlds.*

### Itinerary highlights

View Panorama Gorge and the ethereal waterfalls of Sabi Sands' surrounding landscape before settling down for a picnic lunch.

Fly via helicopter to the world's largest rhino rehabilitation centre to spend the day learning about what goes into protecting young rhinos affected by poaching.

Be immersed into the bushland on a walking safari in search of Sabi Sands Nature Reserve's smaller residents.

Head out on private game drives for a more exclusive and personal experience.

Drive through the communities of Benguerra Island to get a glimpse into local life.

Take to the water with sundowner in hand for a sunset cruise aboard a traditional dhow.

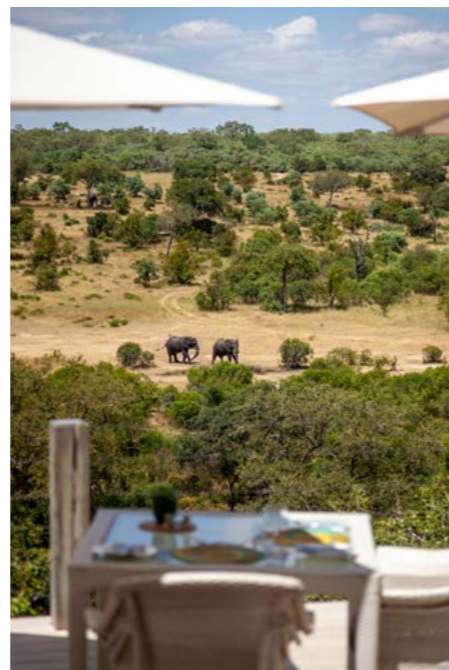
Island hop around the archipelago keeping an eye out for the endangered dugong before a barbecue lunch.

Snorkel and scuba dive the surrounding reefs in search of turtles, stingrays and a plethora of fish.

Watch the annual humpback whale migration as they pass by Azura's beaches.



Leopard Hills Private Game Reserve



## Where you'll stay

10 nights | approx. 4hrs 50mins transfers | 2 locations

**EXPLORING:** Sabi Sands Nature Reserve



### Day 1-4

#### Leopard Hills Private Game Reserve, Sabi Sands Nature Reserve

The private sun decks and plunge pools of this intimate lodge's eight glass-fronted suites make for the perfect post-safari respite, while the waterhole-adjacent restaurant means the wildlife are never far away.

#### Local connector



#### Stuart Buy

Head Ranger at Leopard Hills Private Game Reserve

"Once the Safari bug has bitten it is very hard to escape it."



Azura Benguerra Island

### Day 5-11

#### Azura Benguerra Island

Chic creature comforts and traditional Mozambican design combine in this boutique retreat, where spacious thatched villas kitted out with private pools are set in lush indigenous gardens just steps from the beach.

**Pinch me moment:** Trot around some of Benguerra's prettiest places on horseback.





**INDIA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
 TIGERS | LEOPARDS | STRIPED HYENAS | GOLDEN JACKALS  
 FOXES | PELICANS | PARAKEETS



**KENYA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
 ELEPHANTS | LIONS | LEOPARDS | BUFFALO  
 CHEETAHS | RHINOS | GIRAFFES

*Ensuring our impact is one that's positive.*

*For the greater good*

As conscious globetrotters, Mother Nature must be at the forefront of our minds every time we travel. And with such wondrous wildlife as our focus, this feels especially important. While we are so lucky to witness exclusive animal sightings guided by experts that welcome us with open arms, the endangered species on our radar simply can't be ignored. Picking out the places we stay so carefully, those featured across this chapter have been highlighted for their incredible conservation efforts.



**BEST FOR:** Adventure-driven adults with an eye for authenticity  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, boat & jeep  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Big-budget adventurers searching for new experiences

## Introducing India: the foray for first timers

A whirlwind of bustling streets and animal encounters, it's impossible to see it all on a maiden voyage to India. From the age-old landmarks of New Delhi to the tigers promenading through Ranthambore, the splendour of these storied lands transcends centuries, senses and terrain.

Yet, for us, it's the people that make the trip worthwhile. Thousands of miles from home, the places we stay and the communities we meet are actively involved in conserving the animal kingdom. Take Jaisal and Anjali Singh, for example – owners of Sujan Hotels. Their dedication to protecting wild spaces, heritage and culture runs deep, with a family history of positive local impact still evident to this day. It's this shared idea of responsibility that fosters a sincere sense of connection to our destinations.

*Gallivanting the golden triangle is a busy affair for even the most frequent visitors; see beneath the surface from the get-go with this tour to experience India through our eyes.*

### Itinerary highlights

Peer into the past at Qutub Minar, India's earliest Islamic architecture thought to be one of the world's tallest minarets.

Tour the City Palace and Jagdish Temple of Udaipur, before embarking on a sunset cruise across Lake Pichola.

Visit the 16th-century red sandstone fortress of Agra Fort, once the imperial city of the Mughal rulers.

A hotspot for birdwatching, stop off at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, to spy the likes of waders, raptors and flycatchers.

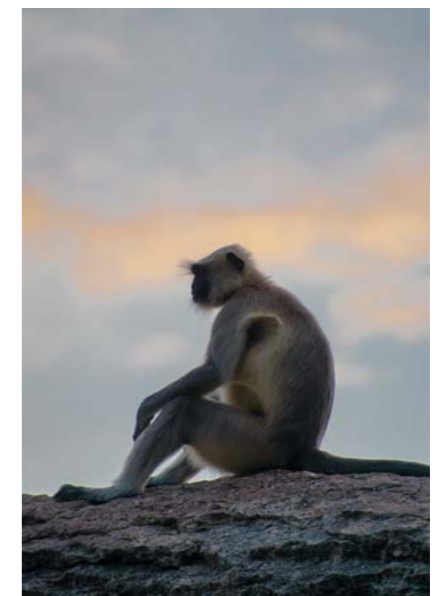
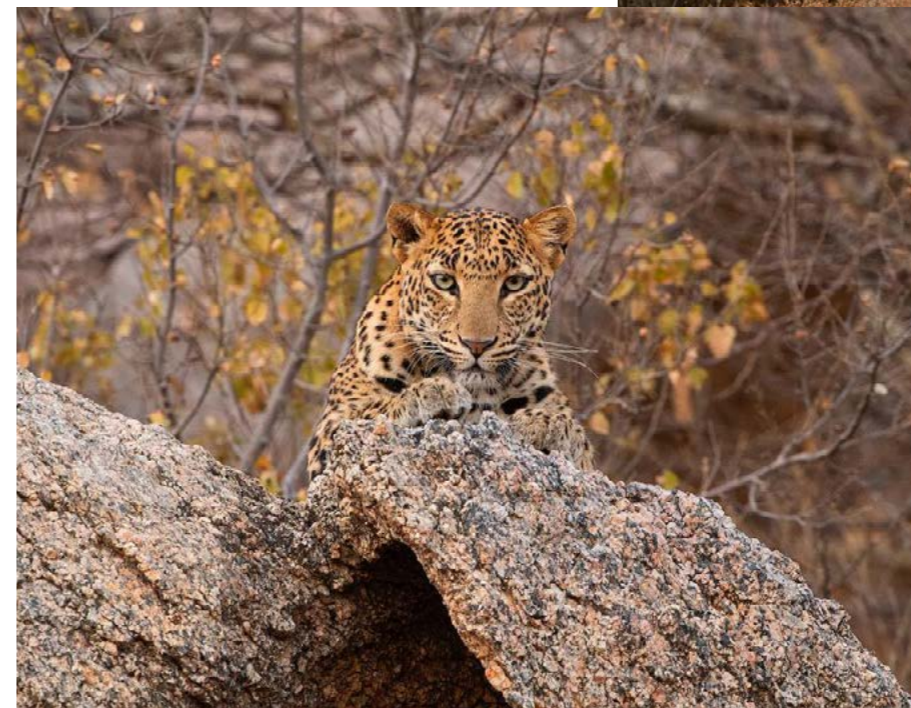
Join a knowledgeable naturalist on an exclusive jeep safari, photographing big cats in the wilderness of Ranthambore National Park.

Witness first-hand the work of the Dastkar Ranthambore Project, a welfare centre aiding women in their journey to financial independence.

Dine with royalty at Shahpura Bagh, who encourage guests to get involved with philanthropy projects while sipping on sundowners.

Search for leopards on safari in Jawai – see them lounge lazily on the steps of the Bhavani Mata Mandir.

Meet Jal Saanji artist Rajesh Vaishnav; learning traditional art from his father, hear how he in turn teaches his sons.





**Day 1-2**

**The Imperial New Delhi, Delhi**

Immaculate in its attention to detail and glorious in its outlook, grandeur greets guests at the entrance to The Imperial, while antique art characterises interiors.

**Day 3**

**The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra**

Just 600 metres from the world's greatest monument, this romantic enclave gives breathtaking views of the Taj Mahal from every room.

**Pinch me moment:** Rise before dawn to see the Taj Mahal at sunrise, in all its glory.

**Day 4-5**

**SUJÁN Sher Bagh, Ranthambore**

A mission to protect wildlife and conserve community manifests in a brilliantly boutique collection of tented rooms, where a social safari atmosphere reigns king of the jungle.

**Day 6**

**Shahpura Bagh, Rajasthan**

Midway between Jaipur and Udaipur, guests are welcomed to a 120-year-old garden estate, once home to the rulers of Shahpura.



*From top: RAAS Devigarh, The Taj Mahal Palace, SUJÁN JAWAI*

**Day 7-8**

**SUJÁN JAWAI, Rajasthan**

Walking with the Rabari tribe, a stylish sense of authenticity awaits at SUJÁN JAWAI; wildlife, research and rewilding form the basis to luxury among the leopards.

**Pinch me moment:** Join the centuries-old Rabari tribe to track animals on foot across the rolling landscape.

**Day 9-11**

**RAAS Devigarh, Udaipur**

Contemporary character holds Rajasthani heritage close in the midst of the Aravali mountain range; relaxed yet refined, expect only the best in traditional foodie fare from this marriage of opposites.

**Day 12-14**

**The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai**

Palace Rooms adorned with paintings and period furniture, or Tower Rooms blending European style and Indian elegance – whatever the choice, the splendour continues with international cuisine and spectacular city views.



*Local connector*

**Jaisal Singh**

Author, conservationist, entrepreneur and founder of SUJÁN, interviewed by Departures Magazine

“When we say conservation, we include wildlife, biodiversity and habitat in that, but we also integrate local communities into what we do, and we have been doing this since day one.”

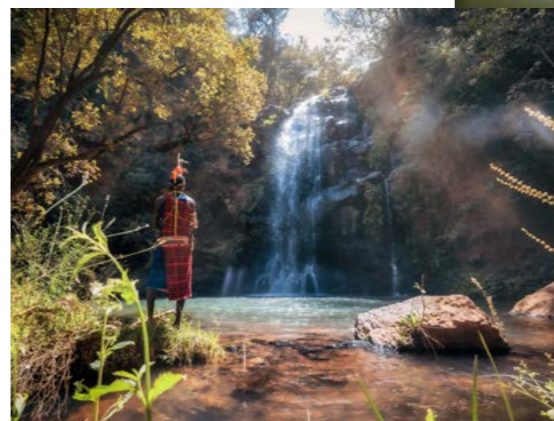
*Where you'll stay*

13 nights | approx. 19hrs transfers | 7 locations

**EXPLORING:** Ranthambore National Park | Jawai National Park



*From top: The Oberoi Amarvilas, Shahpura Bagh, SUJÁN Sher Bagh*



**BEST FOR:** Confident couples turning off the beaten track  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, jeep & air  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Surefooted safari connoisseurs

## Slowing the pace on safari

To leisurely experience far-flung destinations is to immerse yourself in another world entirely – in this case, one often seen only on screen. Serial safari-goers understand the awe that accompanies breaking the fourth wall of a real-life wildlife documentary (and with their ever-increasing popularity, an appreciation of the initiatives allowing us to explore in exclusivity).

Centred on going at your own pace, here is a relaxed roam through the length and breadth of Kenya to witness the conservation success stories lived out each day. See Craig the big tusker saunter below Mount Kilimanjaro; learn how conservation crosses borders with the Big Life Foundation; and track once near-extinct species at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. This itinerary proves the magic we see on screen is by no means fabricated.

*Excitement and safari should always belong in the same sentence, yet for some, the beauty of escape comes with slowing down – appreciating the efforts behind such extraordinary experiences.*



## Itinerary highlights

Head towards Amboseli National Park to meet members of the Big Life Foundation; join them on a walking safari, showcasing their successful protection of rhinos and big tusker.

See first-hand the tracking techniques used across the Kimana wildlife corridor with a tracker dog demonstration, meeting the canines keeping the area free from poaching.

Visit the Mara Elephant Project and Reteti Elephant Sanctuary to see how these gentle giants are protected, rescued and rehabilitated across both the Maasai Mara and northern Kenya.

Take to the skies on a scenic helicopter adventure, exploring the southern Sugata Valley; soar over volcanoes, stop to swim in natural springs and enjoy coffee beside Mount Silali.

Spend time with the experts in animal monitoring, learning how technology is used to track and identify the likes of lions and rhinos in immersive conservation experiences in Loisaba.

Pass an afternoon in the company of the Samburu tribe, delighting in traditional dancing and beadwork on a short sojourn to the Samburu village.



From top: Angama Amboseli, Mara Plains



## Where you'll stay

12 nights | approx. 6hrs 25mins transfers | 4 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Kimana Sanctuary | Olare Motorogi Conservancy |  
 Lewa Conservancy | Loisaba Conservancy



### Day 1-3

#### Angama Amboseli, Kimana Sanctuary

Settled in the Kimana Sanctuary, this hotspot for elephant sightings pairs perfectly with uninterrupted views of Mount Kilimanjaro; expect a slow-paced safari underpinned by family-owned, independent luxury.

### Day 4-7

#### Mara Plains Camp, Maasai Mara

A joint venture with Great Plains Conservation and the local Maasai community, this environmentally-friendly camp prides itself on personal service and excellent guiding.

**Pinch me moment:** Awake before dawn to soar into the sunrise on a hot air balloon adventure, with a champagne breakfast to follow.

### Day 8-9

#### Elewana Kifaru House, Muchienc

Crowds are nowhere to be seen in northern Kenya; bush breakfasts, quiet game drives, and spectacular sundowners are on the agenda, sighting rare species of rhino and zebra.

### Day 10-13

#### Elewana Loisaba Lodo Springs, Laikipia

Let home feel a world away out in the African bush; beds are perfectly placed to see sunrise before heading out in search of the Big Five.

**Pinch me moment:** Spend a night sleeping out under clear skies in Loisaba, with only stars glittering overhead.

From top: Elewana Kifaru House, Elewana Loisaba Lodo Springs



### Local connector

#### Tom Silvester

CEO of Loisaba Conservancy

"Through responsible tourism, we are able to balance wildlife conservation with sustainable economic growth, ensuring that both the wildlife and local communities benefit."



**SRI LANKA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
LEOPARDS | SLOTH BEARS | ELEPHANTS  
BLUE WHALES | TURTLES



**BOTSWANA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**  
LIONS | LEOPARDS | ELEPHANTS | WILD DOGS  
HIPPOS | GIRAFFES | BUFFALO | WILDEBEEST  
CHEETAHS | HYENAS | KUDUS | LECHWE

*Where exclusive experiences go hand-in-hand  
with enlightening connections.*

## *The insider scoop*

With safaris taking the crown on most travel bucket lists, making them better can almost seem like gilding the lily. Taking lesser-trodden destinations as a base, the adventures in this chapter have been elevated with a healthy dose of substance and a dash more style, centring around introductions to some of the most renowned people in the conservation and safari-sphere and extraordinary experiences that are hard to find elsewhere.



**BEST FOR:** Older adventurous families | **SAFARI TYPES:** Hikes, jeep & air  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Rookie wildlife travellers & athletic families

## Bonds of nature

Dipping tenderfoot toes into Asia's treasures comes easy on the Resplendent Isle. With its pick and mix of landscapes and nature meeting a casual, spiritual pace, here makes for a balanced backdrop for enriching experiences and ever-important quality time.

Softly launching the trip, a night's stop in Kotugoda rests jet-lagged heads enough for a spot of whitewater rafting en route to Hill Country – where it's all about the tea traditions that have remained in place since the 1800s. The train from Hatton to Ella then gives a glimpse into the panoramas of the country's heart, before wildlife takes over in Yala National Park. Here, in-the-know experts lead the way to lesser-trodden areas for safaris with a more private feel. Tangalle wraps things up with some history and world-class whale watching.

*Flying under the radar for most kindred travellers, those that do venture to Sri Lanka's soil are rewarded with unforgettable wilderness as their playground.*



## Itinerary highlights

Get adrenaline pumping in the whitewater rapids of the Kelani River, with sections suitable to all ability levels.

Delve into the history of tea at the Dunkeld Tea Factory, learning of the diligent process from a resident planter.

Accompanied by local adventurer and mountaineer, Johannes Peries, hike the sacred Adam's Peak at night to witness dawn at the summit.

Board the iconic vintage train from Hatton to Ella. Uncover Ella's UNESCO-protected highlands along the Pekoe Trail, passing through the Forest Reserve and near the famous Nine Arches Bridge with the trail's creator, Miguel Cunat.

Explore a less crowded area of Yala National Park on a private safari with wildlife and sustainability expert Noel Rodrigo.

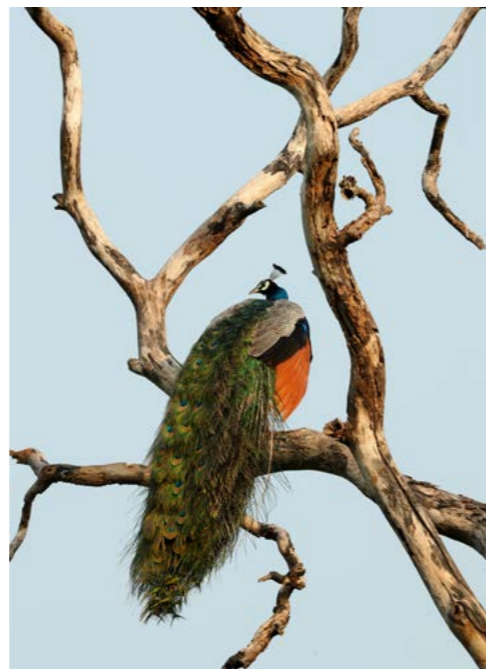
Visit a local village to learn about the leopard-human conflict and how the community are working to live in harmony with the animals.

Soar above the ocean for an unobtrusive bird's-eye view of everyone's favourite gentle giants – the blue whale.

Head down to the sand under cover of darkness to see hatching turtles make their way to the ocean.



From top: Wallawwa, Leopard Safaris, Ceylon Tea Trails



## Where you'll stay

11 nights | approx. 12hrs 10mins transfers | 5 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Horton Plains National Park | Yala National Park



### Day 1 Wallawwa, Kotugoda

Bringing a cosy ambiance to a lovingly converted manor house, this boutique sanctuary sees jet-lag-weary limbs recharged at the spa and high tea taken on the lush lawns.

### Day 2-4 Ceylon Tea Trails, Hatton

Often regarded as the most scenic part of Sri Lanka, Tea Country is the setting for this idyllic sojourn high in the hills, bordering the UNESCO World Heritage Central Highlands.

**Pinch me moment:** Head to the hillside above the Dunkeld Bungalow for a tea planter's tiffin lunch.

### Day 5-6 Nine Skies, Ella

This boutique beauty in the heart of a tea estate is the epitome of intimate and personalised service. With only five rooms and one suite, the Sri Lankan hospitality truly shines.

### Day 7-8 Leopard Safaris, Yala

The brainchild of Sri Lanka's own 'Leopard Man', Noel Rodrigo, connecting to nature in a joyful yet eco-friendly way is what life beneath the camp's cavernous canopies is all about.

### Day 9-12 Amanwella, Tangalle

A zen-like tranquillity pervades this exclusive property, perched on a private beach within a picture-postcard cove. But for those who can tear themselves away, the resort makes an excellent base for exploring.

**Pinch me moment:** Meet a heritage expert at UNESCO Galle Fort for a tour of the walled city.



From top: Leopard Safaris, Amanwella

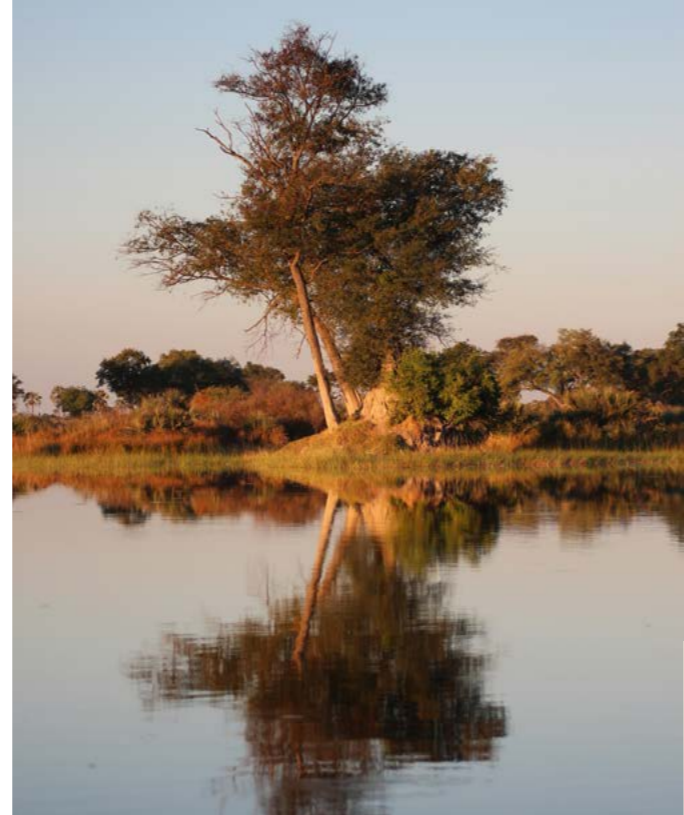


### Local connector

#### Miguel Cunat Creator of the Pekoe Trail

Having nurtured his keen eye for untapped potential, Miguel struck gold when he settled on the idea to create the Pekoe Trail. Combining his skills with his passion for sustainability, his vision for the trail is that it will show off Sri Lanka in the most intimate way possible – by foot – giving visitors a more personal insight into the villages, wildlife and landscapes of the diverse Central Highlands.





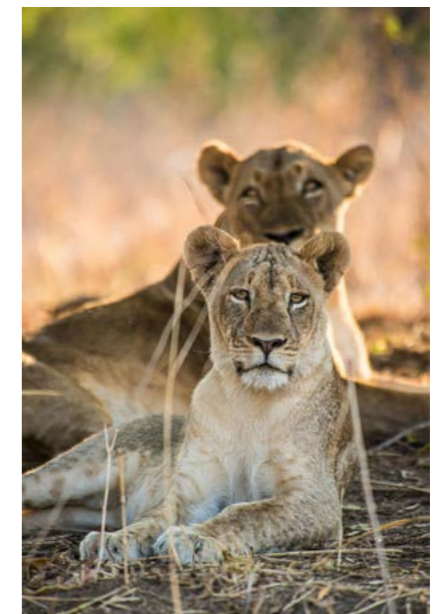
**BEST FOR:** Luxury away from the crowds  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, jeep & boat  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Intermediate safari-goers & natural beauty seekers

## Wondering at the wild world

Wild, untrammelled and proudly holding the last intact delta in the world – the Okavango – this landlocked country is the closest to human-free land you can arguably get. Pair that with a low tourist volume philosophy and exclusivity truly is the name of the game here. From lodges housing must-meet experts and unmatched experiences to the landscape itself, that could kid anyone into believing it was theirs and theirs alone.

Starting off the beaten track, Selinda Reserve’s private status and heaps of wildlife make for game drives with little to no neighbouring vehicles. And, being home to the Great Plains Foundation, activities encompass the passions of owners Dereck and Beverly Joubert like photography and conservation. A helicopter south then lands in the Moremi Game Reserve where an art-loving lodge and time in local villages awaits.

*The safari-darling for royalty and naturalists alike, Botswana’s remote and lush lands are a privileged insight into one of Africa’s most precious wildlife havens.*



## Itinerary highlights

Borrow Zarafa’s camera equipment to flex your wildlife photography skills on morning and afternoon game drives.

Tour local villages via helicopter to discover how the community lives peacefully alongside elephants and big cats.

Take to the waters of Zibidianja Lagoon for a blissful and breathtaking cruise during a sunset that could rival Santorini’s.

See the Delta’s wildlife from a different perspective by drifting through the landscape in a Mokoro canoe.

After dinner, head to Xigera’s most striking feature – the Baobab Treehouse – to sleep out under the stars with the surrounding nature as a lullaby.

Wander the halls of Xigera’s main lodge on a tour of their Design Collection, comprised of pieces by some of Africa’s most recognisable artists.

Fly to Habu village to see how their partnership with Xigera has benefitted the community, from cultivating gardens to education.

As stars blanket the sky, little to no light pollution makes the lookout deck of Xigera ideal for stargazing with an expert guide.



Zarafa Camp



## Where you'll stay

8 nights | approx. 3hrs 20mins transfers | 2 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Selinda Reserve | Moremi Game Reserve



### Day 1-4

#### Zarafa Camp, Selinda Reserve

Photo-ops abound in this exclusive eco-friendly camp, reminiscent of a 1920s safari with its raised tents and copper baths. Here, game drives are complemented by guided walks and occasionally cruising on the Zibadianja Lagoon.

**Pinch me moment:** Steal away for a romantic private dinner in the wine cellar.

### Day 5-9

#### Xigera Safari Lodge, Moremi Game Reserve

Re-emerging onto the safari scene with a luxurious new look worthy of its prestigious status, the pioneering family-run Xigera has not only outdone itself, but changed the game for luxury lodges the world over.



### Local connector

#### Ben Seager

General Manager of Xigera Safari Lodge

“Be the difference...”

When coming to head up the team at Xigera in 2022, it was the legacy left by the former CEO that Ben resonated with the most. Valuing his love of wildlife and a passion for helping people succeed, the projects the lodge are involved with are close to his heart. From the training of staff and supporting local organisations, to hosting charity events and community visits for their guests – you’ll find Ben oversees almost all of them.



Xigera Safari Lodge





**INDIA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

TIGERS | LEOPARDS | PANTHERS | STRIPED HYENAS  
MONKEYS | WOLVES | WILD DOGS | SLOTH BEARS  
ANTELOPES | BENGAL FOXES | JACKALS | JUNGLE CATS



**ZAMBIA WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

LEOPARDS | LIONS | WILD DOGS | ELEPHANTS  
BUFFALO | HIPPOS | ZEBRAS | ANTELOPES | GIRAFFES  
WILDEBEEST | CHEETAHS | RAPTORS

*Lions and tigers and... leopards. Oh my!*

*Hear them roar*

Prowling across the African plains or stalking through the jungles of Asia, big cats sit at the top of the food chain every time. The ability to see them in their natural habitats with our own eyes should be something to fear, and yet, the beauty of these formidable creatures always strikes us as something spectacular to behold. Crouching in wait at the turn of a page are the distinctive prints of our itineraries, nimbly designed to transport you to where these majestic creatures roam wild and free.



**BEST FOR:** Couples with a soft spot for big cats  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking & jeep  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Experienced fans of adventure & education

## Looking into the eye of the tiger

Striking orange against jet black, the sight of a tiger is unmistakable – and a privilege once thought never to be seen again. Saved from a shrinking population in the foothills of the Himalayas, these endangered creatures continue to grow in number to this day. Weaving through close ties to their tumultuous history, find these sacred felines in their natural habitat and meet those protecting them along the way.

First on the agenda is Bandhavgarh National Park, home to the densest population of these striped predators in India. In a country boasting the largest number of wild cat species across forest landscapes, let your lens broaden here until the penultimate stop in Pench National Park. Hear camp owner Amit Sankhala share his family history of tiger conservation, recounting a story far from over.

*A conservation success story spanning 50 years; the tiger is here to stay – and we know where to spot its stripes...*



## Itinerary highlights

Spend your first evening in the company of Ms Parveen Paul, one of the most reputed guides in India, to share in her extensive knowledge over tea.

Explore Bandhavgarh National Park by night and day; once the private game reserve of the Maharajas of Rewa, it's one of the most prevalent places to see a tiger.

Delight in the work of Pashoo Pakshee at the Baherakhar Centre; an engineer-turned-conservationist, understand her work to combat human-animal conflict.

Go on a guided walk through the Kutwahi village and take the opportunity to visit the weekly tribal market in Mocha, a meeting point for many communities.

Experience a jungle safari in Pench National Park; the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book', see the likes of Bagheera, Baloo, and Akela wandering through the wilderness.

Tour the land of entrepreneurs in Dharavi; a billion-dollar economy of diverse industries, feel the buzz of opportunity through Mumbai's largest entrepreneurial hub.



From top: The Imperial New Delhi, Samode Safari Lodge



## Where you'll stay

12 nights | approx. 21hrs 35mins transfers | 5 locations  
**EXPLORING:** Bandhavgarh National Park | Kanha National Park |  
 Pench National Park



### Day 1-2

#### The Imperial New Delhi, Delhi

The place to dine in New Delhi, expect an exquisite experience, ranging from award-winning South-East Asian fare at The Spice Route to Tuscan Italian at San Gimignano.

### Day 3-5

#### Samode Safari Lodge, Bandhavgarh National Park

Appearing as a village from above amidst forest and prairie, a tribal influence of earthy colours and Gond artwork touches every aspect of a Samode Safari Lodge.

### Day 6-8

#### Flame of the Forest, Kanha National Park

Inspired by indigenous communities, authenticity and open verandas characterise this boutique property in Kanha National Park, where attention to detail and highly personalised service create a home-away-from-home atmosphere.

**Pinch me moment:** Safari from a new perspective with filmmaker Warren Pereira, gaining first-hand knowledge of how to snap majestic big cats.

### Day 9-10

#### Jamtara Wilderness Camp, Pench National Park

Slow travel with a side of history; close ties to pioneering tiger conservation add to the experience of Jamtara, where luxury tented accommodation and farm-to-fork cuisine are standout features.

**Pinch me moment:** A tradition practiced for generations, drift off to the call of the wild, sleeping under a blanket of stars.

From top: Flame of the Forest, Jamtara Wilderness Camp



### Day 11-13

#### The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Away from the Agra district, The Taj Mahal Palace blends international influences with a contemporary Indian flair at every turn, from décor to dining.

### Local connector

#### Karan Modi

Owner of Flame of the Forest



“By nurturing the land and supporting the well-being of local people, we foster a greater acceptance of coexistence with wildlife.”



### Itinerary highlights

Try your hand at tracking animals across the plains on a walking safari, learning techniques first-hand from the experts.

Get that all-important snapshot at Puku Ridge, where a photographic hide allows guests to get up close and personal to wildlife, and all without disturbance.

With the natural world as your bedroom, sleep under only the cover of darkness on a star bed tower at Puku Ridge.

Though safaris tend to be on two legs or four wheels, boating is preferred on the Zambezi; watch out for both river- and land-dwelling wildlife.

Meet Ian Macallan (CEO) from Project Luangwa at their headquarters to hear of the impact education is having on rural school children in Mfuwe.

Catch up with the conservation team on the ground at Conservation Lower Zambezi, touring behind the scenes for an exclusive scoop of their latest projects.



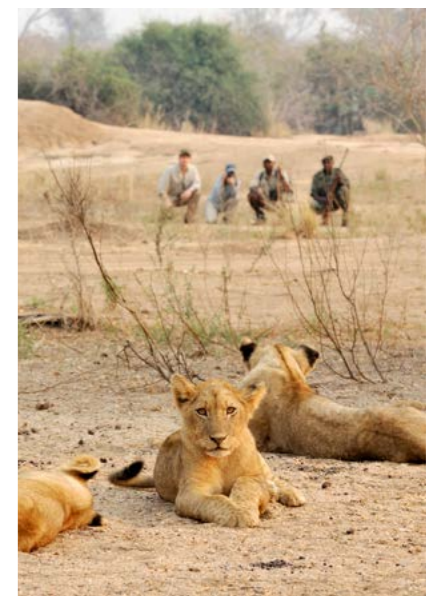
**BEST FOR:** Couples looking for close-up encounters  
**SAFARI TYPES:** Walking, jeep & boat  
**EXPERIENCE LEVEL:** Frequent travellers coming back for more

## Jems of the Zambezi

Traditional safaris may often take the form of game drives or nature walks, but in Zambia, river safaris are almost always added to the list. A tour to suit the more rustic travellers among us, expect a balance of active excursions and laid-back luxury.

Taking a leap into a remote corner of the planet, the Valley of the Leopards is the first port of call. By the warmth of the sun or the dark of night, the felines found here never change their spots. Continuing south towards the border of Zimbabwe, water safaris reign supreme. See elephants stop for a drink as you sail, or steer clear of any water dwellers lounging on the riverbed. Ending your journey with awe, marvel at Victoria Falls with your own eyes, ticking off a bucket-list excursion to the sound of Mosi-oa Tunya, or 'the smoke that thunders'.

*Following in the footsteps of Dr Livingstone, see Victoria Falls for yourself – but not before venturing through the Valley of the Leopards.*





From top: Puku Ridge Camp, Chiawa Camp



*Local connector*

**Grant Cumings**  
Owner of Chiawa Camp

Grant has seen a lot of firsts in his career. Not only did he open Lower Zambezi National Park's first safari camp, but his company has become both the first climate neutral and climate positive safari company in Zambia. He also established the park's first safari guide training programme, holding his original guide number of '0001' with pride.

**Day 9-10**  
**Mukwa River Lodge, Victoria Falls**

Watch animals graze on the banks of the Zambezi from the luxury of your private plunge pool at Mukwa River Lodge, the ideal base for exploring Livingstone and Victoria Falls.



*Where you'll stay*

9 nights | approx. 8hrs 35mins transfers | 3 locations  
**EXPLORING:** South Luangwa National Park | Lower Zambezi National Park

**Day 1-4**

**Puku Ridge Camp, South Luangwa National Park**

Just eight luxury safari tents mean exclusivity is guaranteed at Puku Ridge Camp; elevated within the valley of the leopards, even the larger-than-life bathtubs are privy to awe-inspiring views.

**Pinch me moment:** Head out under the cover of darkness for a game drive, spotting the night owls of the animal kingdom.

**Day 5-8**

**Chiawa Camp, Lower Zambezi**

Meaning 'the one who shares' in Soli, this family-owned camp on the banks of the Zambezi River is renowned for knowledgeable guides and a 'nothing-is-too-much' service.

**Pinch me moment:** Take to the waters in a custom-built pontoon boat for a safari with silence on its side.



*Mukwa River Lodge*



### *Carrier Cares*

*You don't have to throw away your passport to be a more conscious and considered traveller; there are other ways to support the environments and communities we visit.*



Here at Carrier, we look beyond the surface-level enjoyment of a destination, recognising our responsibility to help protect the habitats, cultural sites and communities we see on our travels. We're committed to reducing our carbon footprint, advocating for human rights, and of course, championing animal welfare.

Taking responsibility for safeguarding the well-being of nature around the globe – and protecting it from the potential repercussions of tourism – we liaise with wildlife authorities to ensure we aren't promoting experiences that could be harmful to animals or their habitats. We then educate our partners on our policies, better practices and alternative wildlife opportunities, encouraging them to adapt their offerings.

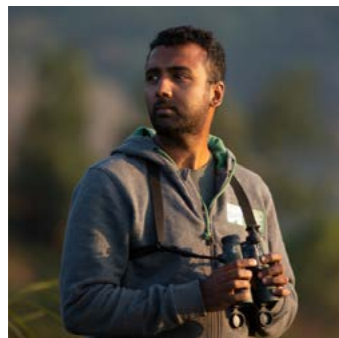
We still have so much to learn, but we hold our corporate and social responsibilities at the heart of everything we do, in the hope that others will do the same.



### **Uthando South Africa**

Meaning 'love' in Xhosa, Uthando recognised the potential for the tourism industry to lend a hand in developing struggling South African communities. Admiring their dedication to changing the lives of locals, we're proud to support this non-profit accredited organisation through donations from our Africa bookings, touring options for visitors, and backing their Pack for a Cause scheme.

*More personalities to know along the way*



**Surya Ramachandran**  
Naturalist and author, India

“One cannot save or talk about India’s wildlife by ignoring the people who live with wildlife in their backyard. This was my first take away as a naturalist travelling across the various landscapes of India and beyond. These people are the primary custodians of our wildlife and it is their understanding, their initiative and most importantly, their tolerance that lets us enjoy and appreciate our wild havens.”



**Toby Sinclair**  
Naturalist, India

“It is 50 years since I first arrived in India (I drove by road in 1974) and over the intervening time I have been privileged to visit every state (bar one), and every union territory. Wherever I have ventured there has been wildlife, large or small to discover and watch.”



**Amit Sankhala**  
Tiger conservationist, India

“Project Tiger’s conservation work over the last 50 years is a testament to the resilience of the Indian people when we look at human wildlife coexistence. It is a country which celebrates many iconic species who have thrived under one of the most progressive economies. It is now paramount to pass this perseverance on to the next generation.”



**Dereck and Beverly Joubert**  
Nat Geo Explorers, filmmakers & conservationists, Botswana

Renowned for their Emmy-Award-winning films and work in conservation, the Jouberts started the Great Plains Foundation and Big Cat Initiative to aid the wildlife and communities that surround their Great Plains properties in Kenya, Botswana and Zimbabwe, providing for the locals as well as the guests who flock to these corners of the globe.



**Angus Sholto-Douglas**  
Managing Director of Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, South Africa

Co-founding Kwandwe back in 1999, Angus has instilled his passion for community development, rhino conservation and thicket restoration into every acre. His belief is that guests should be able to experience the beauty of Africa while being given the opportunity to contribute to its preservation.



**Johann Peries**  
Adventurer and mountaineer, Sri Lanka

A keen rock climber from a tender age, Johann has sought out his fair share of thrills over the years. Summiting Adam’s Peak and Island Peak in 2012, Mount Kilimanjaro in 2014, he also, alongside his support team, became the second Sri Lankan to summit Everest in 2018.

*Wonderful wildlife across the globe*

*What you've seen in this collection is just a fraction of the abundant opportunities to discover wildlife along your travels. Whether up-close encounters on a tailor-made itinerary, viewing from afar on an expedition cruise, or casual spotting on a relaxing getaway, the world is your oyster.*

The following pages showcase a further glimpse of the enchanting wildlife and their habitats across the world that are calling to be explored.



#### Bush & veld

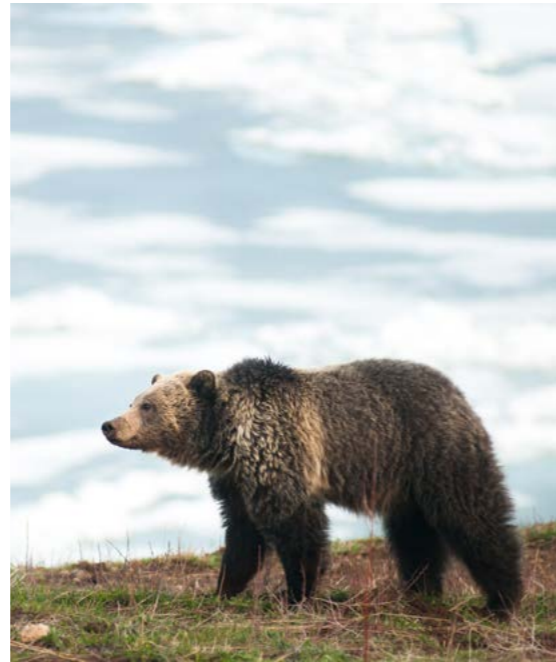
Giraffes loom over *Tanzania's* Serengeti grasslands | Energetic kangaroos hop through *Queensland's* bushlands | *Zimbabwe's* watering holes play host to domineering hippos | South Island tomtits forage in *Canterbury's* open bush

#### Deserts & plains

The rugged oryx treks through *Namibia's* dunes | Golden grains make homes for *Oman's* sand cats | Desert eagles soar above *Dubai's* arid landscapes | Ostriches are reintroduced to *Morocco's* dry lands

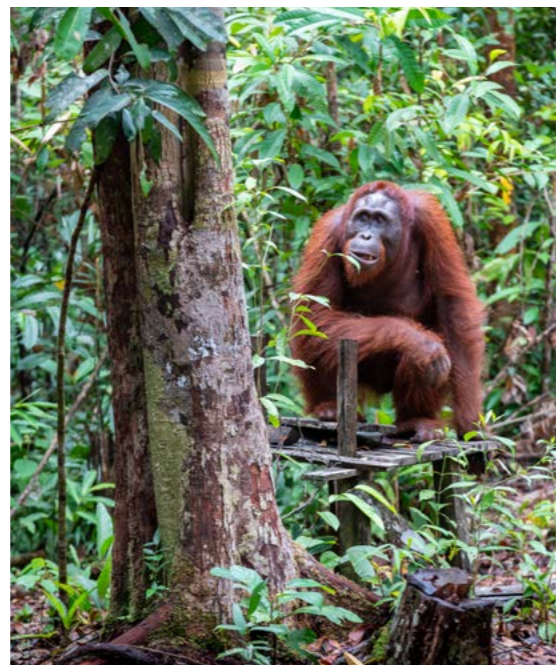
### Woodlands & wetlands

Families of grizzly bears catch fish by *British Columbia's* lakes | *Florida's* swamps make the perfect hiding place for sneaking alligators | *New South Wales'* eucalyptus trees play home to lazing koalas | Bald eagles rise over *Utah's* national parks



### Jungles & rainforests

Orangutans climb expertly through *Borneo's* canopies | Cheeky ring-tailed lemurs gather under *Madagascar's* lush vegetation | Families of black crested gibbons swing through *Laos'* treetops | Green iguanas roam through *St Lucia's* forest beds



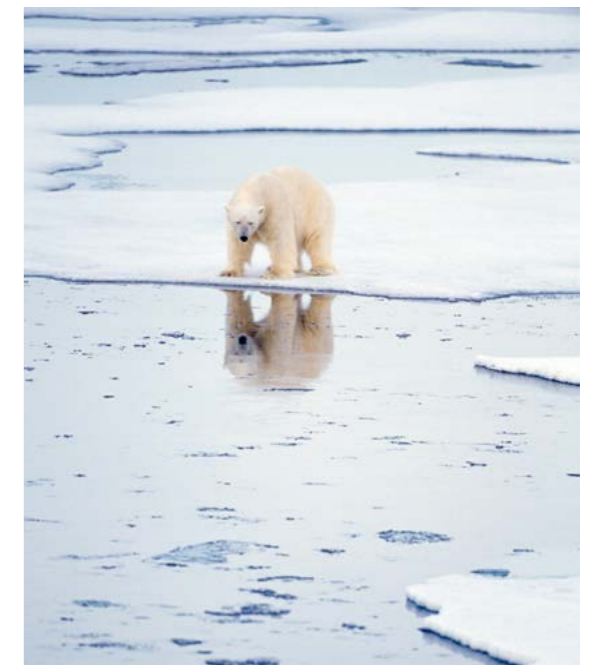
### Coasts & marine

Hundreds of Hawksbill turtles hatch on the *Seychelles'* golden sands | Pods of playful dolphins introduce themselves on the *Algarve's* sunny coastline | Manta rays float close by in the *Maldives'* crystal seas | Families of Fin whales feast in *Tenerife's* waters



### Snow & ice

Herds of reindeer ramble through *Finland's* wintery climes | Inquisitive penguins bibble on *Antarctica's* icy plains | *Svalbard's* hard environments accommodate solitary polar bears | Fluffy harp seals recline on *Greenland's* shores



## *Ready to plan your adventure?*

What you've seen in the pages of this book are just a sample of the tailor-made tours we can create. There's so much more to discover, from sample itineraries to the lovely lodgings and exceptional curated experiences to enjoy along the way.

With connections across the country, our Luxury Travel Designers are honoured to collaborate with some of the most esteemed travel agents and experts you'll find. We customise every trip to you, so when you're ready to start designing, contact your preferred travel agent or get in touch for a personalised quotation.

### *Contact your preferred travel agent*

Call: 0161 820 4889

Visit: [carrier.co.uk/wild](https://carrier.co.uk/wild)

Email: [enquiry@carrier.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@carrier.co.uk)

**CARRIER**

Designed and produced in-house by Carrier Ltd.

### *Printed sustainably*

The paper used in this book has been Carbon Balanced in partnership with Carbon Co. and World Land Trust. Through WLT's Carbon Balanced programme, emissions are offset by the carbon stocks saved through conservation of ecologically important forestry under imminent threat of clearance.



**CARRIER**

Carrier Ltd, One Didsbury Point, 2 The Avenue,  
Didsbury, Greater Manchester, M20 2EY

[carrier.co.uk](https://carrier.co.uk)  
[enquiry@carrier.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@carrier.co.uk)  
[@carrierluxuryholidays](https://www.instagram.com/carrierluxuryholidays)



COPYRIGHT 2024 CARRIER LTD. All material in this publication is strictly copyright and all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without prior permission from Carrier Ltd is strictly forbidden. All copy and images are believed to be correct at time of printing with content produced or compiled in-house for use by Carrier Ltd. E&OE.



