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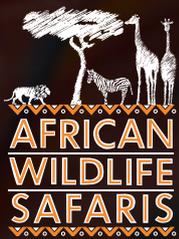
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INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Talking Drum. Africa has emerged as one of the hottest continents to visit in 2017, with South Africa, Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania leading the charge as the most popular safari destinations for travellers. At the same time some of our planet's "coolest" places are also proving to be in high demand, from wild Alaska with its grizzlies and whale-rich waterways to the pure, white landscapes of the High Arctic and Antarctica.



In this newsletter we've presented a number of outstanding African lodges and tented camps which are situated in exclusive, well-managed concessions adjoining world-famous reserves such as the Serengeti and Kruger National Parks. You can also read about our General Manager's recent trip to Kenya, and be inspired by Taleen's journey through Ethiopia. We'd also like to mention that our new Africa brochure will shortly be going to press, and we can guarantee that it is brimming with gorgeous lodges and inspiring ideas for an African safari of a lifetime.

Also in this edition you can discover some unique ways to explore our earth's last wildernesses; cruise by small ship through the Galapagos Islands or Alaska's Inside Passage; board an expedition ship to the polar regions, or journey by train through the Canadian Rockies or Ecuadorian Andes. If you prefer a splash of culture with your wildlife, then consider our two intimate escorted tours through India which include plenty of tiger-viewing opportunities. Alternatively combine historic Cuenca with an Amazon rainforest adventure.

Stephen Cameron Sara Cameron

Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders

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OUR 2018 BROCHURES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please call us on 1300 363 302 to order your copy or visit africanwildlifesafaris.com.au to download them.



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CONSERVATION UPDATE

Our planet's wildest places are vital to our business and something we are deeply passionate about. As such, we provide each and every one of our clients with the opportunity to contribute \$10 (or more) per person to nominated non-profit organisations, which we then match dollar for dollar. Furthermore, we don't charge a cent in administration.

Most recently, we've contributed £2967.46 to the Tikki Hywood Trust, whose vision, fundraising efforts and mascot are featured on p6/7. We've also raised AUD\$3072 for Breaking The Brand, dedicated to changing consumer behaviour - a groundbreaking approach to saving wild rhinos. Established to protect East Africa's most threatened subspecies of zebra, Grevy's Zebra Trust received USD\$1936 to further habitat preservation and research projects.

On behalf of these organisations, we would like to thank you for your donations - we are so grateful for your support.



SKY HIGH LUXURY

Towering over Cape Town's vibrant V&A Waterfront, The Silo is a celebration of cutting edge architecture, contemporary art and modern luxury. Nestled within a 1920s grain vault, this top-notch hotel pays homage to the Mother City's past through eclectic sculpture and wall hangings, while the building's edgy multi-faceted windows bring the sights of the present in.



GORILLA INDULGENCE

Modelled on circular Central African grass huts, the six suites of newly opened Bisate Lodge in Rwanda's misty highlands are anything but rustic. Inside each one is a stacked stone fireplace, inviting designer armchairs and a glossy black freestanding bathtub. Mountain gorillas may be the biggest drawcard outside, but Bisate might tempt you to linger a little longer indoors.

REMEMBER TO BOOK EARLY

We specialise in small, boutique lodges and wild destinations - as such, space is often limited. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We love to know how your trip went and we warmly welcome your feedback. Send us an email, photos or even videos of the places you saw and the animals you encountered. Alternatively, leave us a Google review. We may publish this information on our websites, in our brochures or on our social media channels with your permission.





A NATURAL WONDER: ZIMBABWE'S VICTORIA FALLS

One of Africa's greatest spectacles, this immense waterfall that separates Zimbabwe from Zambia will mesmerize any visitor with its sheer size and power. At peak flow, an unbelievable 546 million cubic metres of water plummets into a deep gorge over 100 metres below. At almost 2 kilometres wide, Victoria Falls is thought to be the largest sheet of falling water in the world. Whilst you can view the falls from the luxuriant reserve that shares its name, there are an array of other fantastic vantage points available, including from a helicopter or from Livingstone Island, situated on the lip of a cliff over which the Zambezi River crashes. To incorporate a visit to this iconic African landmark into your holiday contact our Africa experts.

CELEBRATING THE KING

Last month we celebrated World Lion Day which aims to raise awareness about the conservation issues surrounding these magnificent animals. It is claimed that two thousand years ago more than a million lions roamed across Africa, Asia and Europe and since an estimated population of 400,000 in the 1940s, there has been a dramatic decline. Today less than 20,000 remain (primarily in Africa with around 500 living in India's Gir Forest) so the species is in deep trouble. Giant paws, majestic manes & earth shattering roars that can be heard several kilometres away have forever been the symbol of the power of the world's second largest cat. Highly social, these charismatic felines are the only cats that live in groups, which are called prides. Family units may include up to 3 males, a dozen or so females and their cubs. Lions spend many hours of a day resting and sleeping, wisely conserving their energy for the cool of the evening when they tend to become more active.



NATURAL SELECTION: WATCH THIS SPACE

Our longtime friends at Natural Selection have partnered with Uncharted Africa and their distinguished collection of camps in and around Botswana's ethereal Magadikgadi Pans National Park. The award-winning Jack's Camp, glamorous San Camp and family-friendly Camp Kalahari join the company's existing portfolio, which comprises of authentic lodges such as Meno A Kwena overlooking Botswana's Boteti River and Sable Alley and Hyena Pan Camps situated in private concessions within the Okavango Delta.

Natural Selection is currently working on plans to develop some new camps and gold-standard eco-lodges in unsurpassable reserves such as the bewitching Kaokoveld in Namibia and the De Hoop Nature Reserve in South Africa's rugged Western Cape. So if you're keen on one-of-a-kind safari experiences and well-run camps brimming with soul, keep watching this space!

