

GO SAFARI

Hit the Serengeti in Style.

Basically: Africa is still the best place to check out the animal kingdom in all its glory.

The look: Crisp white shirts, khakis and Timberlands. But why not put together your own desert look? Think Ralph Lauren cuffed shorts, racerback tanks with wooden beads and bangles, and Tod's loafers. After all, you'll need to look good for the camera ...

Lit picks: Put your books away. The only thing you need is a super zoom digital camera.

Soundtrack: Try the self-produced album *Kweli* by Nawal, Comoros's first woman singer/songwriter to perform in public (RM64, www.amazon.com).

Souvenirs: African tie-dye or embroidered cloth, wooden beads and colourful kaftans. Nothing that requires poaching, please.



Stay at...

1. Shamwari Game Reserve and Steenberg Estate, South Africa

An indulgent escapade that's amazing and beautiful.

The scene: A 30-room hotel situated on the Cape's oldest wine farm, offering far-reaching views over False Bay. And it's just a 20-minute drive from the heart of Cape Town. **Highlights:** Abundant flora and fauna at the 20,000-hectare private game reserve and the unique colonial luxury lodges. Also, of course, the producing wine cellar that make it a sweeter stay. **Price:** Rates are quoted per room per day, including breakfast.

Tourism levy included. **Contact:** +27 (0)21 713 2222;

www.steenberghotel.com

2. Hatari Lodge, Tanzania

Originally the crew's accommodation for the filming of 1960s' *Hatari!* **The scene:** 10 rooms decorated with a retro theme to reflect the film's '60s style, with views across Momella meadow. There's also Mount Kilimanjaro on one side and Mount Meru on the other. **Highlights:** You can walk to the nearby hippo pool or trek up the mountains. See the flamingos of the Momella Lakes or simply stroll by waterfalls swarming with birds, butterflies and wild flowers along the Ngare Nanyuki river. **Price:**

Three nights full board, from RM3,900.

Contact: +255 (0)27 2553456-7;

www.hatarilodge.com

3. Chole Mjini, Chole, Off Mafia Island, Zanzibar A place of dappled sunlight and birdsong.

The scene: Ancient baobabs support seven treehouses suspended in the canopy, surrounded by palm trees, mangroves and colourful tropical birds. **Highlights:** Rooms with gorgeous four-poster beds with Egyptian cotton sheets and sunken Persian baths. You can also explore the island, go dhow sailing, fishing, and even diving. **Price:** From RM1,260 a room a night, full board. **Contact:** www.jcjourneys.com

4. Virunga Lodge, Gisenyi, Rwanda

The ideal location for the sometimes arduous trek through mist-cloaked forests. **The scene:** Eight bandas perched on a lush hillside near the Virunga volcanoes. The camp is committed to eco-friendly principles, such as using solar power. **Highlights:** Sharing time and space with wild gorillas in their natural mountain habitat, as well as the far-reaching views over the volcanoes and lakes Ruhondo and Bulera. **Price:** An eight-night safari costs from RM22,230 per person, full board inclusive of three nights at Virunga Lodge. **Contact:** www.aardvarksafaris.com