



DELUXE FAVOURITES

South Africa

Ron Mackenzie has worked in the luxury travel industry for more than ten years. During this time he has had the privilege of assisting celebrities, ambassadors, prime ministers, royal families and captains of industry alike. As part of providing a quality service to his clients, Ron is constantly exploring destinations and seeking out Southern Africa's finest establishments. South Africa Deluxe has joined forces with The Safari Guys to create a selection of exclusive offerings that are sure to satiate all your travel desires.

If you are looking for the most opulent experiences that luxury travel has to offer across the continent, send an email to deluxetravel@thesafariguys.com to find out what exciting offers there are in store for you.

For enquiries email deluxetravel@thesafariguys.com or visit www.thesafariguys.com

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CAMP JABULANI

There is a lot to enjoy at Camp Jabulani; scrumptious meals, excellent service, luxury accommodation and a unique safari experience. While we were here we visited Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) and experienced game viewing from the back of a majestic elephant. The HESC initiative is a substantial, well-run initiative and we found it to be an emotional experience. If you book three nights at Camp Jabulani and volunteer at HESC on day 4, they'll throw in an additional night as a thank you! Hats off to Mrs Lente Roode and her team. The elephant back safari is also something we'll always remember. It was educational, fun and above all handled with the utmost respect for the reserves giants. I'd encourage readers to explore Camp Jabulani's website for more information.

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KAYA MAWA

Get off the beaten track – way off. Kaya Mawa is located on Likoma Island, half way up Lake Malawi, close to the Mozambique mainland. It is covered with mango trees and ancient baobabs, and encircled by glorious sandy beaches and rocky coves. Translated as "Maybe tomorrow", the lodge uses the stunning natural surroundings to create an idyllic island lodge. Of the stone and teak-framed thatched individual accommodation, many enjoy lake access. The beach bar and main areas are spacious, airy and enjoy undoubtedly the best views on the lake. Be as active as you like whether snorkelling or explore the island by bike or simply just relax. This is a true aquatic paradise, deserving of its many accolades including being voted in the top ten 'Most Romantic Places in the World' by Conde Nast.

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AZURA SELOUS

Located on the banks of the Great Ruaha River, in the south of Tanzania, the Azura Selous is known for its private and exclusive game sightings. Azura's has an ethos of client exclusivity, and a passion for offering top notch experiences in remote, unique, undiscovered locations. Walking safaris will be a particular highlight for adult guests. Azura is the only camp in the Selous with a dedicated children's programme educating them on the bush, teaching tracking skills, learning about the 'little 5' and enabling them to enjoy fishing in the river. There is a stunning infinity pool overlooking the river rapids at their uniquely designed main camp area, and the 12 air conditioned, tented villas, offer every creature comfort as well as opulent stone bathrooms and private plunge pools.

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GROOTBOS

Nature's unsurpassed beauty dominates even the most lavish interior and exterior designs at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve. Artfully crafted, this lodge sits within rare fynbos and milkwood forests on a mountain slope overlooking the whale watching haven of Walker Bay, and Gansbaai. It is a place where the sunbird sings and buzzard and buck guard over the marine Big Five that thrive here: dolphins, southern right whales, great white sharks, penguins and seals. Only two hours from Cape Town, en route to Hermanus and the Garden Route, the reserve boasts some of the world's most distinct and unique plant, bird and animal species. The impressive lodges, 27 luxury designed suites and exclusive villa offer breath-taking views over the Atlantic Ocean.

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ROYAL ZAMBEZI LODGE

Royal Zambezi Lodge is situated on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River on the edge of the unique Lower Zambezi National Park, directly opposite Mana Pools, in Zimbabwe. The lodge's design allows nature and the environment to play a leading role in ensuring the relaxed pace and magical experience. The 15 airy canopied, canvas tents, nestle under mature trees, each positioned for maximum enjoyment of the surrounding views and complete privacy. The location for Royal Zambezi Lodge was specifically chosen for its positioning which allows for a wide variety of safari activities. This is home to large herds of elephant and buffalo, and offers frequent lion and leopard sightings. The qualified Royal Zambezi guides come with over 50 years of experience in the Lower Zambezi valley.

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AZURA QUILALEA

Azura at Quilalea is a hidden gem, somewhere to retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life, with a relaxed 'Robinson Crusoe' castaway-style that belies the comforts and experiences on offer. This is an eco-boutique retreat, located on a private and wholly uninhabited island paradise, surrounded by the pristine waters of a marine sanctuary. There are just nine seafront villas, accommodating eighteen guests. This is paradise for lovers of marine life, with superb snorkelling and world class scuba diving available straight off the main beach. Watch as pods of dolphins cruise past your sun deck, or look out for humpback whales or nesting turtles (in season). Enjoy romantic beach and baobab grove picnics and candle lit dinners on the beach.

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Photos: © Lodges

ROYAL CHUNDU ZAMBEZI RIVER LODGE

Let the sights and sounds of Africa transfix you at Royal Chundu, a sanctum of quiet solitude and untouched beauty, and the first Relais & Châteaux property in Zambia. The two luxurious lodges are situated on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, just upstream from the magnificent Victoria Falls, on a 15km stretch of private waterway which is protected by two sets of rapids. This family-owned-and-run property, comprises two luxurious lodges. River Lodge is the larger of the two, while Island Lodge offers a more exclusive and private experience. The lodge was created in complete harmony with its natural surroundings and embraces the tradition and geography of the area. Incorporating stylish, sophisticated accommodation with world class service and sumptuous pan-African cuisine. A must for the bucket list.

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MASSINGA BEACH

Massinga Beach, in the Inhambane Province of Mozambique, sits above a stretch of endless, private beach overlooking an azure Indian Ocean. Offering barefoot luxury, the lodge caters for honeymooners, romantics and families alike. The beach bar and pool, nestled at the edge of the ocean's warm waters, provides an idyllic setting to sun lovers. Nearby boulders have been chiselled by the elements and offer a unique feature and shade for secluded picnics. Comfort is a priority in each one of the romantic 16 ocean-front deluxe rooms. Each room opens onto an intimate deck and splash pool from which to enjoy the 180 degree view of the magnificent coastline. The 12 ocean-view junior chalets, with glorious, unimpeded views of the ocean, are designed with families in mind.

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AZURA BENGUERRA

Imagine an unspoiled island within a Marine National Park. Miles of deserted beaches with soft white sand. Sparkling turquoise seas, crisscrossed by local dhows plying their trade. Swaying palms, gentle breezes. Sunny days and star-studded nights. This is Azura Mozambique. Azura is the area's first luxury eco-boutique retreat. Built entirely by hand in partnership with the local community, it has just 16 villas, each with their own private pool stretching out to the Indian Ocean beyond, and is exquisitely designed for a special getaway. With wonderful cuisine, friendly Mozambican service and a vast range of activities and experiences, including a unique spa, it's the perfect island escape. The team that looks after you gets the small things right.

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