

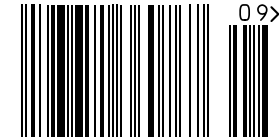
# TRAVEL + LEISURE

## Journeys in Style

SEPTEMBER 2023  
DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

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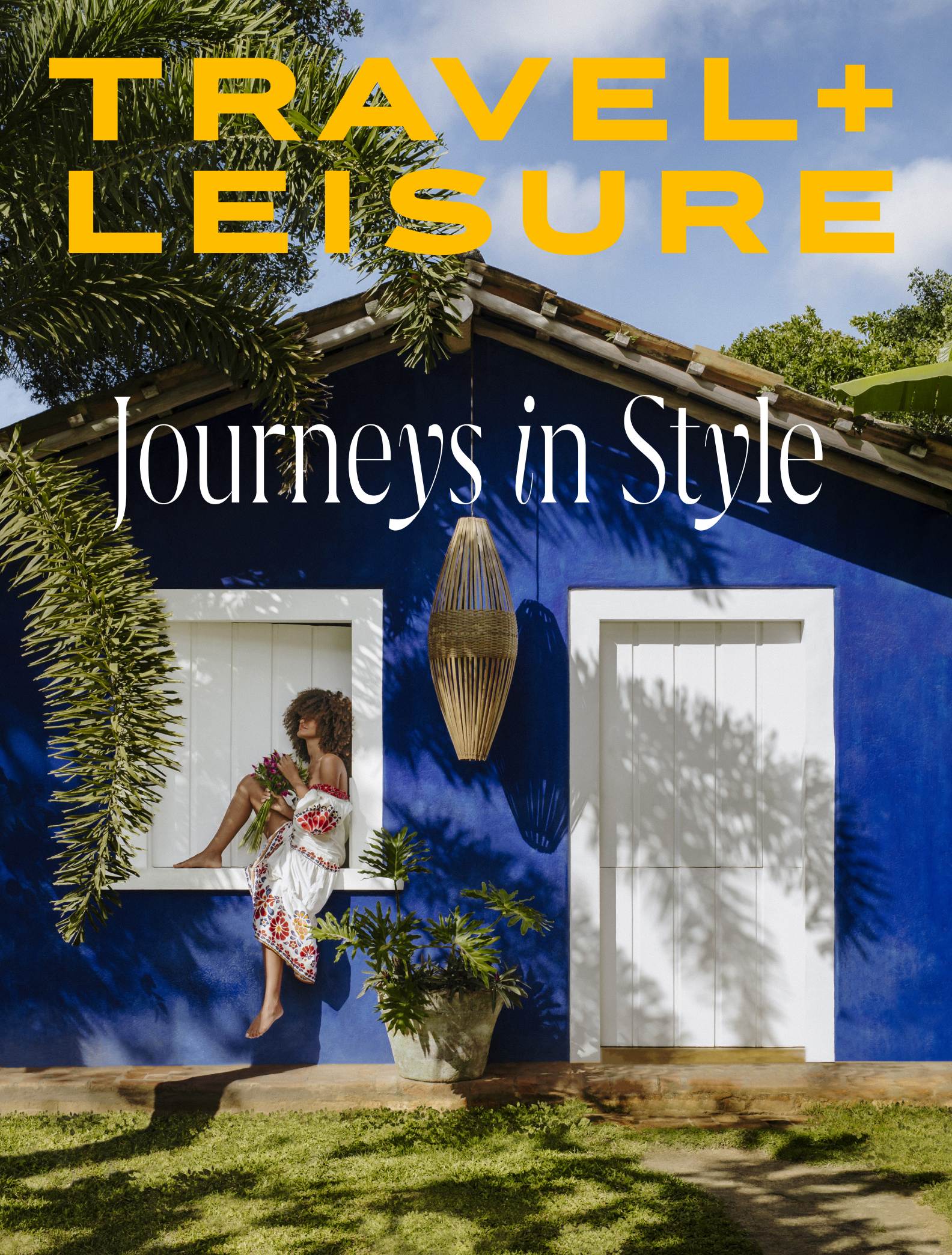
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# TRAVEL + LEISURE

## *Journeys in Style*





# INTELLIGENT



TIPS + TRICKS  
TO HELP YOU  
TRAVEL SMARTER

EDITED BY  
PAUL BRADY

## BACK TO THE BUSH

If you've been putting off that dream safari, wait no longer. Many of Africa's greatest destinations are better than ever, thanks to upgraded lodgings, improved accessibility, and a new spirit of inclusivity. This month, we present the latest info and expert advice on putting together the ultimate wilderness trip.



# TRAVELLER

COURTESY OF WILDERNESS

▲ Cape buffalo in the Mababe Depression, a wildlife-rich region of Botswana with a new camp from the operator Wilderness.



# Two Epic Kenya Adventures

Travelers in search of wide-open spaces and incredible wildlife are making a beeline for Kenya. "Demand is up 37 percent since 2019," says Jack Ezon, a travel advisor and cofounder of Embark Beyond. One reason the country has become a go-to? An increased number of flights on Kenya Airways, which is part of SkyTeam. (Other carriers that offer good one-stop connectivity from the U.S. are Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Turkish Airlines.) T+L asked two members of the A-List for their advice on how to make the most of a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

## FOR A COUPLE

Itinerary by Leora Rothschild of Rothschild Safaris. From \$55,328 per person.

### DAYS 1-2

Land in Nairobi, where a meet-and-greet service will speed you through the airport, then make for **Giraffe Manor** (doubles from \$1,062 per person, all-inclusive), "which is famous for close encounters with its resident herd," Rothschild says. After breakfast the next morning at the 12-room hotel, which also has a pool and spa, you'll set out for the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's animal orphanage, where rescued elephants are rehabilitated, and a visit to the home of Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*.



Elephants on the move in Kenya's Tsavo East National Park.

Breakfast at Giraffe Manor, in Nairobi.



Taking flight above the Masai Mara.



### DAYS 3-6

From Nairobi, it's a short flight west to the Mara Naboisho Conservancy, which borders the Masai Mara National Reserve, for a few nights at **Kicheche Valley Camp** (doubles from \$840 per person, all-inclusive), a six-tent retreat where, as Rothschild puts it, "birds take flight and animals casually saunter by." Game drives can be arranged, but she recommends spending time on guided walks, as well as a night in a comfortable yet basic "fly camp," with dinner and breakfast served alfresco. "It's the perfect way to gain a true understanding of the bush," Rothschild notes. She also recommends an early morning hot-air balloon flight over the Mara, complete with champagne breakfast on touchdown.

### DAYS 7-8

From Naboisho you'll fly back to Nairobi, then onward to Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy, a preserve managed by the Indigenous Samburu people of northern Kenya. Rothschild likes **Sarara Camp** (doubles from \$964 per person, all-inclusive) because "each of the six spacious tents has stunning views of the Matthews Range—and of a waterhole that attracts a good variety of game." Guests can also learn more about Indigenous culture on a guided visit to a Samburu manyatta, or homestead.

### DAYS 9-11

Departing Sarara, hop aboard a half-day helicopter adventure that will take you 80 miles west to the crater of Mount Silali, before continuing through the Suguta Valley, "where the landscape is constantly changing, with desolate salt pans, lava flows, crocodile pools, and colorful hoodoos," Rothschild says. You'll have a chance to splash in the waters of Lake Turkana before heading to the unpretentious yet chic **Sirikoi** (doubles from \$1,030 per person, all-inclusive) in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, for game drives and excursions like horseback riding and visits to nearby communities.

One of the four guest tents at Sirikoi.



FROM TOP: VICKI JAURON/BABYLON AND BEYOND PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF GIRAFFE MANOR; MIA COLLIS/COURTESY OF SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST; COURTESY OF SIRIKOI

## FOR A FAMILY

Itinerary by Elizabeth Gordon of Extraordinary Journeys. From \$30,118 per person.



Manzili House, in Nairobi, is the perfect landing spot.

### DAYS 1-2

Fly in to Nairobi, where you'll have meet-and-greet service on arrival and a private transfer to **Manzili House** (doubles from \$634), "a six-bedroom boutique hotel in the leafy suburb of Karen with beautiful architecture inspired by the island of Lamu," Gordon says. The next day, you'll have a private driver for a day of touring, with visits to the Sheldrick animal orphanage or perhaps the Nairobi National Museum, with its displays on the evolution of humanity in the Great Rift Valley, as well as Kenya's colonial period.

### DAYS 3-6

From the capital, you'll fly north to Lewa, which Gordon says "is considered a model for community-based wildlife-conservation efforts in Africa, not only protecting animals but also contributing to the socioeconomic development of the surrounding communities." For those traveling with kids, she recommends a family cottage at **Lewa Wilderness** (doubles from \$987 per person, all-inclusive), a classic lodge that offers game drives, bush walks, and horseback rides.

FROM TOP: PAUL & PAVEENA MCKENZIE/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF MANZILI HOUSE; COURTESY OF RICHARD'S CAMP



### DAYS 7-9

From Lewa, you'll fly by private charter to **Kalepo Camp** (from \$5,500 per night, all-inclusive), a retreat on nearly 400,000 acres in the Matthews Range that hosts only one group of up to 10 guests at a time. The four-tent property is, Gordon says, "the perfect location for exploring the many draws of Kenya's 'Big North,' from Samburu villages to soaring mountains, as well as incredible elephants." Between bush walks and visits to the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, Gordon says, you can also squeeze in a helicopter sightseeing flight through the Suguta Valley to Lake Turkana.

The rugged shores of Lake Turkana, in northern Kenya.



Looking out for wildlife at Richard's River Camp.

### DAYS 10-14+

The adventure continues in the Masai Mara, at **Richard's River Camp** (doubles from \$1,395 per person, all-inclusive), a small outpost in the Mara North Conservancy that has among its seven accommodations a pair of family-friendly tents, one of which has room for up to eight. This is a prime spot for the Big Five, including a pride of lions that calls the area home, plus "giraffes, zebras, cheetahs, hyenas, and a rich array of birds," Gordon says. (From July to September, the Great Migration runs through this stretch of Kenya, too.) The camp can also arrange for hot-air balloon rides, visits to Masai communities, and meals out in the bush for a final hurrah before your flight back to Nairobi.