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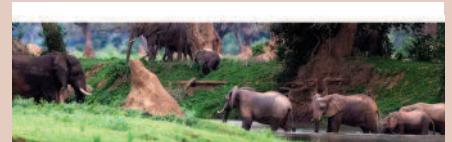
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# There's Something Special About Senegal

Agents will get a chance to preview this African prize at ATA's 36th Congress this month.

SYLVIA FROMMER-MRACKY



A Saint Louis fisherman's village, Senegal.

**W**hen ATA returns to Senegal May 25–29 for its 36th ATA World Congress, it will present a wonderful opportunity to revisit or take a first-time visit to what was the first democratic country in Africa. Just a quick six hours and 39 estimated minutes, and you've arrived in Dakar, the capital and a westernized city with many French touches, due to the influences of colonization by the French for three centuries.

Local tour operators have been busy designing and offering several familiarization trips within Senegal, with the opportunity to experience more of the country as well as tours to nearby countries.

Here are two exciting "off the charts" Senegal trips that delegates to the Congress can enjoy. By taking advantage of excellent fares being offered, agents will be able to sample what they should market to clients to create satisfying Senegal experiences—tours available year-round that will be talked about for a long time afterward.

Senegal Safari—The *crème de la crème* is the fabulous seven-day pre-Congress tour that includes airport welcome, hotel transfer, lunch at Chez Lutcher Restaurant, a tour of Dakar the first day, a tour of Pink Lake the second day with 4x4 drive along the sand dunes, a visit to a Fulani village. The third day starts an adventure that is not usually anticipated by tourists to Senegal.

There's an early morning departure for Tambacounda, the capital city of the Senegal Eastern Region. Enroute you will

discover and enjoy the fascinating changing vegetation, from the savannah, to the bush and the forest. Lunch enroute in the city of Kaolack and then on to the city Tamba.

Here comes the surprise! A safari at Niokolo Koba National Park, one of the largest protected wildlife areas in Africa, especially in West Africa. The fauna are the Sudanian type with all species of African mammals, antelopes of all kinds and sizes, bushbucks, duikers, roan antelopes, water bucks and kobs (similar in looks to the impala). Oh yes, and lions, (claimed to be the largest lions in all of Africa), elephants, hyenas, wild dogs, buffaloes, leopards and panthers and 300 varieties of birds.

Your wildlife drive is in an open 4x4 vehicle, making it easy to view and photograph the surrounding wonders. The game drives and the safari wildlife experience is fair comparison to the East and Southern Africa safari offerings.

This park is 2.23 million acres, encompassing the above-mentioned Sudanese savannah and the Guinea forest housing over 84 species of mammals. With 15,000 plant species recorded, it is a paradise for botanists. UNESCO listed the park as a World Biosphere Reserve, and it is a World Heritage Site.

The tour does not end here—it continues on to Kedougou where you will visit the market and the traditional miners of the Tinkoto village and then proceed to Tamba for dinner and overnight. The next day, there's a visit to the town of Kaolack, a peanut trading and processing center. The city also has an

architectural jewel in a magnificent mosque.

Dakar/Pink Lake/Loumoul—A five-day/four-night trip. Please note that most visitors to Senegal have traveled to the famed Pink Lake, but this voyage takes you to Loumpoul Village and a 4x4-wheel drive to the dunes with camel riding, and a tented lodge for the night. Next stop Saint Louis with a horse-drawn carriage tour of the colonial houses, the Governor's Palace, the fishermen villages and the Guet Ndar fish market. Saint Louis is practically on the border of Mauritania.

The tour includes a visit to Gandiol Lighthouse and then an exciting boat ride to discover the Langue de Barbarie National Park. The return trip to Dakar is by the Little Coast via Thies with a stop to visit a typical village or shopping at Tivaouane for wicker works. Time at leisure at Saly Beach station, arriving back to Dakar, after five days of seeing Senegal, in time for dinner.

These are a small sample of the familiarization tours that tourism specialists at the Africa Travel Association Congress can experience.

### The Senegal scene

Senegal has all the assets required for fantastic tourism. It's just a few hours away from major tourist markets; five hours away from Western Europe and less than seven hours from the East Coast of the United States. It is a sunny country claiming more than 3,000 hours of sunshine yearly. All forms of tourism can be experienced in Senegal seaside resorts—leisure, aquatic sports, horseback riding, discovery and more, cultural tourism, bird watching, sport tourism—hunting and scuba diving, ecotourism, historic museums, gorgeous natural sites, six major game parks and reserves, and botanical adventures with the country's diversified fauna and flora. Game drives and the safari wildlife experience is fair comparison to the East and Southern Africa safari offerings.

Despite various influences (Western influence due to a long French presence in West Africa, Middle Eastern influence due to a tradition of multiple exchanges with North Africa and Arab Countries), Senegal has its own brand of exotic music, food and customs giving it an unusual, happy flavor.

Its weather is tropical. Senegal is home to some of the most photographed beaches in the world. The reefs and cays of the coast are heaven for divers, holding out the promise of extraordinary sightings of the underworld.

Dakar is one of the busiest cruise ship ports in Africa and boasts an exciting restaurant and club scene, as well as duty-free shopping.

Senegal represents a very accessible way for clients to experience Africa and everything it holds.

**Africa Travel Association, [www.africatravelassociation.org](http://www.africatravelassociation.org)**

### 'HIDDEN TREASURES' CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR OF WEST AFRICA PRESENTED BY ACT

Africa Connection Tours (ACT) has designed a cultural heritage tour of various West African countries entitled, "Hidden Treasures." Africa is a continent filled with treasures that have not been discovered, and ACT tours reveal these treasures to travelers.

These tours are designed to give each adventurous spirit a lifetime of wonderful memories.

The 'West African Hidden Treasures' cultural heritage tours lead visitors from Senegal to Guinea Bissau and to Guinea Conakry or from Senegal to Mali and Guinea Conakry. Our tours go up to Ghana.

Travelers see the hidden treasures of Guinea Bissau and experience the Bijagos Island—an archipelago that time has left untouched. While there, they can view the incredible saltwater hippos. They'll be intrigued by the pink lake in Senegal, a rare natural phenomenon, caused by a unique combination of microorganisms and a high concentration of salt that gives the water its pink color. Or, they travel to the Senegal River Delta and explore the Djoudj National bird sanctuary, a world heritage site, which has a vast array of birds, or perhaps they might prefer a quite and lovely sail on the Niger River in a traditional Pirogue. Visitors will step back into time into the fabled city of Timbuktu, which in medieval times was the intellectual center of West Africa.

Guests will get to experience the culture of the Wolof people of Senegal, the Tuareq tribesmen of Mali, the Fulani of Senegal and the Bassari people. They will enjoy the tropical climate, gorgeous landscape, and the natural beauty of these impressive and beautiful West African countries. These hidden treasures await those who want to experience in-depth the fascinating culture of Africa.

**African Connection Tours (ACT), [act@orange.sn](mailto:act@orange.sn), [www.actours-senegal.com](http://www.actours-senegal.com)**

### KABA VOYAGES IS READY TO INTRODUCE TOURISTS TO THE DEEP SENEGAL

With Kaba Voyages Senegal, a travel budget will produce much more than expected. With English-speaking tour guides and well-established partnerships with travel specialists in many categories, the company ensures broad visitor enjoyment. Travelers will get to enjoy well-planned cultural excursions and tours, a wide variety of sea and sun accommodations, the very special and fresh West African cuisine, satisfying community-based experiences, fun-filled dance and folklore events, and top-of-the-line air-conditioned transport always.

Kaba Voyages is a travel agency with modern equipment and the competence needed to welcome tourists to the deep Senegal in Africa. The company is known for its quality service as land operator for individuals and groups. Ticketing is collaborative with all airline companies. Groups from all over the world—French, Spanish, Germans, Americans, English and others—have enjoyed and appreciated their attentive, expert services.

**Kaba Voyages, [kabavoyages@hotmail.com](mailto:kabavoyages@hotmail.com), [www.kabavoyages.com](http://www.kabavoyages.com)**

## SUSAN MASHIBE NAMED YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER BY WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



SUSAN MASHIBE

World Economic Forum has honored a Tanzanian woman, Susan Mashibe, Founder and Executive Director of Tanjet, as a 2011 Young Global Leader (YGL). The honor recognizes up to 200 outstanding young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world. Drawn from a pool of almost 5,000 candidates, the Young Global Leaders 2011

were chosen by a committee chaired by H.M. Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and comprised of respected international leaders from business, government and media.

Mashibe is the executive director and founder of TanJet, an international Fixed Base operations service and the first company of its kind in Tanzania, mastering logistical support for corporate, diplomatic, and private jets. TanJet has transformed the way business aviation operates in East Africa, and its clients include Heads of State, monarchs, Fortune 500 executives, celebrities, and military flights.

Mashibe runs another company, Kilimanjaro Aviation Logistic Center, that processes landing and overflight clearances for private jets throughout the African continent.

She was born in Kigoma and grew up in Mwanza, first dreaming of becoming a pilot when she was just four. After graduating from secondary school in Mwanza, she went on to flight school and to study engineering in the US. Since forming TanJet in 2003, Mashibe has been recognized with a number of honors, including the 2009 Archbishop Tutu Fellowship Award and the 2009 Tanzania Women of Achievement Award.

In Tanzania, Mashibe shares the honor with a representative from the State House, Elsie Kanza, Economic Advisor to the President, who has also become a 2011 YGL. Serving as a personal assistant to the President since 2006, she's also worked with the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Tanzania. The two highly successful Tanzanian women join 12 others in sub-Saharan Africa, among a total of 190 YGLs from 65 countries worldwide.

Forum of Young Global Leaders, [www.younggloballeaders.org](http://www.younggloballeaders.org);  
Tanzania Tourist Board, [www.tanzaniatouristboard.com](http://www.tanzaniatouristboard.com)

## OMONG'WE TRAVEL IS OFFICIAL TRAVEL PARTNER OF ZIFF

Omong'we Travel & Tours, a travel company based in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, has been selected as the Official Travel Partner of the 14th Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) scheduled to be held in Zanzibar June 18–26, 2011.

ZIFF is East Africa's largest film, music and arts festival, bringing new talents together from all over the world. Each year, some of the most captivating and cutting-edge cinema from Africa and beyond is screened in venues across the island. The enchanting port of Stone

Town is the Festival's main venue in Zanzibar and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Films and concerts are held in an outdoor amphitheatre in the Old Fort that dates back to the 1600s. Films and exhibitions are also shown in other listed buildings around Stone Town such as former royal palace, The Africa House, and ceremonial palace, The House of Wonders. Apart from films, visitors can experience live music shows, local art exhibitions and literary events. As official travel partners, Omong'we Travel & Tours will help visitors with hotel accommodation, local transportation and arrangements for various tourist attractions.

Omong'we Travel, [reservations@omongwetravel.com](mailto:reservations@omongwetravel.com),  
[www.omongwetravel.com](http://www.omongwetravel.com)

## GREAT SAFARIS' RANGERS REPORT FAST APPROACHING GREAT MIGRATION ON THE SERENGETI

Luxury African Safari outfitter Great Safaris is reporting that the early rains have started in the Serengeti Plains of Tanzania, a precursor to the famous Great Migration.

The Great Migration occurs every year as the rains cease and the southern grasslands wither. The wild creatures of the vast Serengeti gather in massive herds for the slow march north through the Serengeti, toward the promise of water and sweet new grasses in the Northern Serengeti and the Masai Mara of Kenya. With their own promise of a moveable feast, the carnivores tag along, darting through the shadows in search of the too old, too young or too slow. This is the great migration—the Greatest Show on Earth.

On April 4, Great Safaris' rangers, on the ground in Tanzania, had this to report: "The early rains just started! The migration will soon be trekking toward the central Serengeti. By the end of May we will see the huge herds rumble and split—some moving into the western Serengeti while the balance will turn northward. If the rain patterns hold, the spectacular crossing into the Masai Mara should take place between June and July."

Great Safari's 10-day Greatest Show on Earth itinerary showcases the best of the great migration, from the fabled tree-climbing lions of Lake Manyara and amazing wildlife of the Ngorongoro Crater, to the outstanding game viewing in the heart of the Serengeti. Common species include lions, cheetahs, leopards, elephants, wildebeest, baboons, warthogs, zebra, giraffe, rhino, and more. Great Safaris offers year-round daily departures with pricing starting at \$4,975 ppdo. Airfares from JFK to East Africa good for travel June 1 through August 10 are from \$1,990 plus \$178 tax. Additional months of travel are available on request.

Great Safaris offers the convenience of a US booking office coupled with 10 on-site offices in Africa fully staffed by dedicated professionals. Destinations include Botswana, Kenya, the Seychelles, Zambia, Egypt, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Rwanda and Tanzania. The company is a member of the United States Tour Operators Association, ASTA Tops, and Airline Reporting Corporation.

Great Safaris, [www.greatsafaris.com](http://www.greatsafaris.com)

## SAA ANNOUNCES AGENT FARES STARTING AT \$699 FOR KARIBU TRAVEL AND TOURISM FAIR IN JULY

South African Airways has announced exclusive economy and business class fares starting at \$699 (plus taxes) for travel agents attending Tanzania's annual Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair in Arusha, June 3–5, 2011.

"South African Airways (SAA) recognizes that Destination Tanzania is in high demand among travelers, and since SAA offers a same-day connection from JFK to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, we hope that these special fares will encourage more travel agents to experience Tanzania for themselves," said Gregg Truman, Vice President of Marketing, South African Airways. Truman added, "the Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair makes it easier for agents to meet suppliers all in one place."

The special airfare is valid from May 27 to June 10, 2011, for flights from New York or Washington D.C. and can be booked up to two weeks in advance.

Tanzania's Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair is the largest travel industry event in East Africa. Now in its 12th year, it has become "the place to meet" for the region's travel industry partners from around the world. Part of the uniqueness and excitement of The Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair is that it is an outdoor event that offers a real safari ambiance. The annual event is organized by the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO), Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT).

Amant Macha, TTB's Director of Marketing, added, "Since America continues to be Tanzania's number one source market for tourism, the discounted fare that South African Airways provides is an excellent opportunity to help TTB attract more travel agents to the Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair."

South African Airways (SAA), 866-359-7227, [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com); Karibu Travel and Tourism Fair, [www.karibufair.com](http://www.karibufair.com)

## PLANHOTEL RESORTS AND HOTELS LAUNCHES "STAR OF THE EAST-ZANZIBAR" OWNED BY RENCO SPA

Star of the East in Zanzibar consists of eleven unique villas completely immersed in a natural landscape. "The gardens and green areas have been created on coral rock which we had to cover with soil before planting with plants which had been grown in a nursery nearby," explains Dr. Doria, an expert in creating 'inconceivable' gardens.

Thanks to significant recuperation of water through ad hoc installations, green areas are provided irrigation without wasting water. The grounds have been remodeled so each villa is guaranteed a splendid sea view.

Project architect since its inception is Dr. Germano Aghemo. Both he and Doria are from Turin, Italy. Aghemo led the Gemma dell'Est project in 2004 and in 2007.

Still at Gemma dell'Est, directed planning of the Baobab Congress

Centre and then continued in 2009 to follow every detail of the eleven new villas.

Built on almost 4.5 acres, the villas are surrounded by a splendid botanic garden and a large saltwater swimming pool for guests' exclusive use—the only one of its kind on the island. Each villa has its own private pool, a garden full of lush vegetation and a fountain, with everything located to ensure total privacy. A restaurant is available to all guests.

President Dr. Passeri said the project is the result of two years' work by local workmen supported by Italian expatriates under the management of Dr. Lorenzo Monti, Director of Infrastructure Division and Engineer, and Dr. Marco Arcangeletti, Project Manager.

Each villa is built on one level around 2,000 sq ft, and is equipped with a modern system of solar panels. "This exploits to the full the natural energy Zanzibar provides every day, says Passeri. "The resort is supplied with a modern purification system and the outgoing water is used for irrigation in our gardens."

Drinking water is from wells close to the resort, treated with reverse osmosis to reduce salinity. The villas have hydro-massage baths and outdoor panoramic showers.

With their unique level of service complete with butler, Passeri confidently describes the property as a paradise fit for the most demanding traveler or romantic honeymooners.

Star of the East—Zanzibar; Planhotel, [info.gemma@planhotel.com](mailto:info.gemma@planhotel.com), [www.planhotel.com](http://www.planhotel.com)

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# South African Airways Now Non-Stop Exclusively From Johannesburg to New York

PETER GATT

**H**ere's some great news to pass on to your Africa bound clients. South African Airways (SAA) has announced that its popular New York-Johannesburg service will now also operate non-stop from Johannesburg to New York, resulting in the fastest way to travel between New York and Southern Africa. Through last month, flight SA203 from Johannesburg to New York made a 1-hour passenger and refueling stop in Dakar, Senegal. However starting May 1, flight SA203 will depart Johannesburg at 8:35 p.m. for a non-stop journey to New York that will arrive at 6:40 a.m. the following day. The change now means that SAA offers non-stop flights both to and from New York's JFK airport to Johannesburg, South Africa. Having flown this route nearly a dozen times over the years I will certainly look forward to being able to fly non-stop in both directions in the future.

Anytime that you can eliminate re-fuelling stops, extra security checks, any passenger disruptions on long-haul travel is a huge plus and I am sure that this will be popular news with both your repeat and potential first time Africa clientele. In addition, when travelers arrive in New York, they will have even more morning connection choices through a number of airlines that can take them to points throughout North America and the Caribbean.

"Travelers have told us that they truly value SAA's morning non-stop service from JFK and the range of excellent, same-day connection opportunities it affords to more than 40 destinations in Africa. But they've also expressed that they would

love it even more if our return flight also operated non-stop," said Marc Cavaliere, executive vice president, North America, for South African Airways. "We've answered their calls, and are pleased to announce a return non-stop flight to New York. Now, they will be able to enjoy more time on the ground in Southern Africa, in such remarkable places as Cape Town, Victoria Falls or the Indian Ocean Islands, before they begin their return journey home."

The updated schedule for SAA's daily service between New York and Johannesburg is as follows, effective May 1:

- SA203 – Johannesburg/New York, departs Johannesburg at 8:35 p.m., arrives in New York at 6:40 a.m. the following day.
- SA204 – New York/Johannesburg, departs New York at 11:15 a.m., arrives in Johannesburg at 8:40 a.m. the following day.

South African Airways features daily nonstop service from the U.S. to South Africa with departures from New York JFK and afternoon direct service from Washington Dulles (with a



Business Class wine service.

stop in Dakar, Senegal) that offer travel convenience and award-winning service. Travelers in Premium Business Class enjoy 180° fully flat-bed seats, and in Economy Class enjoy the most legroom versus competitors. Every seat on board offers an individual on-demand entertainment system, pillow, blanket and amenity kit. SAA's route network features connections to nearly 20 destinations within South Africa and more than 25 cities across the rest of the continent. To complement this network, a variety of privileges awaits those who join Voyager, South African Airways' premier mileage program. As a Star Alliance member, South African Airways is able to offer its customers 1,172 destinations in 181 countries and more than 21,200 flights daily, including convenient connections from more than 25 cities in the U.S. through code share service with Star Alliance member United Airlines. Members of United's, Continental's, US Airways' and Air Canada's frequent traveler programs are able to earn and redeem miles on all SAA flights.

## JetBlue Code Share

In other recent South African Airways news, SAA and JetBlue Airways have announced an expansion of their interline partnership, with South African Airways now offering code share services on JetBlue flights effective March 3rd. The code share service will be available with SAA flight numbers on JetBlue flights to 20 cities served by the airline in the U.S., connecting through either New York's John F. Kennedy International (JFK) or Washington, D.C. (Dulles) airports and SAA's Johannesburg hub, where passengers can access connections to more than 45 cities throughout South Africa and Southern Africa. Travelers, whether in Southern Africa or the U.S., can now book their South African Airways flight between 20 cities served by JetBlue in the U.S., with the ability to check bags through for their entire journey.

**South African Airways, 800-722-9675, [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)**

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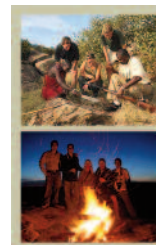
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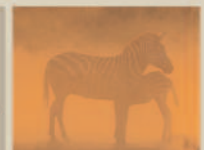


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## SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS NAMES MARC CAVALIERE SR. VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL SALES DEVELOPMENT



MARC CAVALIERE SR.

South African Airways (SAA) has announced that Marc Cavaliere, Executive Vice President for North America, has been named Senior Vice President, Global Sales Development. In this newly created position, he will oversee several departments within SAA's commercial division including airline alliances, e-commerce, sales planning, distribution, customer call centers and regulatory affairs. Cavaliere will now be based at South African Airways' headquarters in Johannesburg.

A 30-year airline industry veteran, Cavaliere joined South African Airways as head of the North American market in 2006. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing Distribution for Spirit Airlines. He has also served as Vice President for Aviation Management, a leading consulting firm specializing in South American and Latin American carriers, and in several sales and airport operations roles for American Airlines and Pan Am.

Todd Neuman, Vice President of Sales for North America, will serve as acting Executive Vice President for the region until a replacement is named.

South African Airways features daily nonstop service from the US to South Africa with morning departures from New York JFK and afternoon direct service from Washington Dulles (with a stop in Dakar, Senegal). The SAA network features seamless connections to nearly 20 destinations within South Africa, and more than 25 cities across the rest of the continent.

South African Airways, 800-722-9675, [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com)

## THE BLUE TRAIN JOINS THE EXPLORATEUR PORTFOLIO

The Blue Train, South Africa, has joined the ranks of the world's best travel experiences under their new membership agreement with The Explorateur Portfolio. Chosen under the strictest of criteria, the luxury rail experience joins a prestigious portfolio celebrating exceptional and brilliant sojourns as individual and savvy as each of their readers.

The Blue Train is a five-star moving hotel on wheels, proffering lavishly appointed suites complete with en-suite marble bathrooms, signature personalized butler service, an award-winning wine list and world-class cuisine prepared by a team of chefs traveling aboard each journey. The route travels through the soul of South Africa, showcasing stunning vistas as it glides comfortably en-route between Pretoria and Cape Town, stopping for a charming excursion just before traditional high tea is served.

Readers of The Explorateur Portfolio and its e-newsletter series are treated to a signature exclusive offer of a complimentary souvenir gift en-suite upon embarkation, after being served a delightful

mimosa, glass of champagne and light fare in the departure lounge.

The Explorateur is a unique forum, filled with positively fabulous insider information and unprecedented exclusive offers at the world's most unique and interesting properties. Its perspective is fun, fresh, fearless and uber-current, delivering honest reviews, detailed destination info, and signature the Explorateur Exclusive offers for subscribers only.

The Explorateur Portfolio, [www.theexplorateurportfolio.com](http://www.theexplorateurportfolio.com)

## SITA WORLD TOURS INTRODUCES LUXURIOUS AFRICAN HONEYMOONS

With fine infrastructure, transportation and accommodations and general political calm making it easy to provide dependable, high-quality products in Africa, SITA World Tours has introduced two new Africa honeymoon itineraries to their choices.

SITA's 10-day/nine-night "South Africa and Victoria Falls Honeymoon" itinerary opens to the best of Cape Town with wine tastings in the region's renowned wineries and opportunities to sample the breathtaking natural surroundings that include hiking, shark diving and helicopter tours. Then it's on to the famous game reserves and finally to a grand finale at Victoria Falls.

An "Ultimate Honeymoon" package pampers honeymooners for 13 days/12 nights exploring South Africa from Cape Town's fabulous attractions to the pristine game reserves of Kruger National Park to a lavish resort on tropical Matemo Island and home from Johannesburg. The "Ultimate" package includes a romantic dinner on the beach, wine and chocolates in the room, a couple's massage, and even special gifts.

SITA has established a Wedding Registry and will make the first deposit of \$100 into a registered newlywed's account. The Wedding Registry makes it easy for friends and family from across the country or around the world to contribute and share in the joy of the wedding celebration. SITA will manage the Registry, assist with design of the Wedding Registry Information Card, send guests an acknowledgement card thanking them for their gift on the couple's behalf, and most importantly, expertly handle all the travel arrangements.

Known for customized itineraries and diverse cultural opportunities, SITA World Tours enhances Africa tours with authentic experiences. Chimpanzee and gorilla trekking, walking safaris, lavish al fresco dining under the stars, boating excursions, elephant safaris, surf and fly fishing expeditions, their concept emphasizes personal experience.

With Africa so vast it encompasses practically every climatic zone, clients can choose a destination based on when they wish to travel and exactly what they want to see. SITA World Tours operates customized tours throughout the year with itineraries that include Kenya, Tanzania, the Masai Mara, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Dubai.

SITA World Tours, 800-421-5643,  
[www.sitatours@sitatours.com](mailto:www.sitatours@sitatours.com)

## GOWAY'S AFRICA EXPERTS ADDS LEIGH STAFFORD TO RESERVATIONS



LEIGH STAFFORD

Goway's AFRICAExperts has announced the appointment of Leigh Stafford to the reservations department. "Leigh brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the department," commented Moira Smith, AFRICAExperts General Manager. "Having lived and traveled extensively in Southern Africa she complements our current team of experts."

Leigh spent 12 years as a guide in Namibia followed by three years selling Africa in the UK. She is passionate about conservation and the preservation of Africa's unique and awe-inspiring wildlife and spent several years working for conservation and volunteering for wildcat organizations.

Africa is the continent that Leigh calls home and she loves sharing her knowledge and passion.

Leigh is based in the Vancouver office.

Goway Travel, 888-496-2088 (x6336, Leigh Stafford), leigh@goway.com, www.goway.com

## TONGABEZI INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO AFRICA WITH UNIQUE FAMILY HOLIDAYS

This month, Tongabezi in Zambia will be opening their completely renovated Garden Cottage, a much-loved family hideaway with two full-size bedrooms, a private lounge and dining room and exclusive plunge pool.

Every Tongabezi activity will be available, and a valet and an activities manager will ensure the visit includes exciting excursions.

Bigger families can book Tangala House—three double rooms with en-suite bathrooms and a twin room with a separate bathroom, a large swimming pool, trampoline, lawn games and various board games as well as a television nook.

It comes with a full complement of private staff and dedicated chef, as well as private guiding and exclusive use of boats and vehicles.

Tongabezi's commitment to children on safari extends to meals, with a dedicated children's menu and chef to accommodate special requests, preferred meal times and separate hosted meals for kids, allowing adults to enjoy extended excursions and some grown-up time by themselves.

Specially trained valets provide a safe introduction to the African continent, which indoctrinates children to notice the unadulterated joy in wildly diverse cultures, expanding their knowledge of the world.

Many specially designed activities are offered: tracking the Tongabezi grounds; visiting Tujatane, where kids can play with local children to see how they live and learn; fishing challenges,

like learning to fish for the legendary tiger fish; quiz nights (usually the last night), with pizza and milkshakes and a quiz on what was learned during the stay (with, of course, an official Tonga Test certificate).

Other activities are African Bush TV (storytelling around the fire), and tours of the falls, town center and game drives that can be tailor-made.

At Mosi-Oa-Tunya game park, kids visit the baby rhino, beetles, worms, lion ants and learn how to make toothbrushes and other bush skills.

Also, there's an African Treasure Hunt, campfire drumming sessions, and child-friendly board games in the event of bad weather. Parents can join in or not, depending on whether they'd prefer a romantic dinner on the san pan. Rates vary depending on choice of accommodation.

Tongabezi, reservations@tongabezi.com, www.tongabezi.com

## KALAHARI SANDS HOTEL & CASINO IN NAMIBIA UNDERGOES MAJOR RENOVATION

Sun International's Kalahari Sands Hotel & Casino in Windhoek, Namibia, is currently undergoing a \$14.5-million refurbishment to refresh its guest rooms, restaurant and pool deck. The refurbishment is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Guest rooms will boast multiple enhancements after the renovation. Each of the hotel's 173 guest rooms will be refashioned to feature king-size beds, 40" flat-screen TVs and luxurious full baths with separate showers. The color palette of the rooms will be earthy and rustic, creating a warm yet relaxing ambiance.

Kalahari Sands Hotel & Casino continues to prioritize energy efficiency, making further improvements and allowing them to use 35 percent less energy. New Solaview windows have been added to shield the room from UV rays, and aluminum window frames, as well as split-unit air conditioners, have been installed in all rooms.

The rooftop pool at Kalahari Sands Hotel & Casino, a favorite among guests, will be complemented by the completion of an entirely new pool deck. The Dunes Restaurant and Terrace, which overlooks bustling Independence Avenue, now boasts a contemporary look with elements of the hotel's desert theme tastefully incorporated.

Kalahari Sands Hotel & Casino is a leading hotel in Namibia and promises guests a luxurious stay. The hotel is in a prime location on Windhoek's Independence Avenue and features a variety of amenities to guarantee guests the best stay possible. The Casino features 150 slot machines along with 11 tables and has sections for both smokers and nonsmokers.

Kalahari Sands Hotel & Casino, Sun International, sainfo@sun-int.net, www.suninternational.com

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