REVAMP

Mombo Camp
BOTSWANA

As one of the most diverse safari spots on the planet – encompassing desert, woodland and wetlands – Botswana has no shortage of luxury lodges. But nothing can steal the crown from Mombo. It's been a favourite of wildlife fanatics for almost three decades, thanks to its splendid isolation and year-round game viewing (hello, adorable elephants and elusive wild dogs). Now, fresh from an overhaul, Mombo is looking better than ever. Set under the shady canopies of jackalberry trees on the north-eastern tip of Chief's Island, within the Eden-like Moremi Game Reserve, nine tented suites are elevated for prime views of the floodplains, while raised boardwalks allow hippos and buffalo to pootle underneath, heart-racingly close to where you sleep. Inside, timber-lined tents have wooden shutters, leather Chesterfield sofas and bronze accents. To slow the pace after thrilling game drives, retreat to your golden bathtub with tipples from the *Mad Men*-style drinks trolley, or there's a private plunge pool for sunset wallowing. Mombo's a place to disconnect from life back home, connect with each other and be wowed by nature. Sure, there's no wi-fi, but with a real-life version of *The Lion King* playing out before your eyes, who needs it?

THE LUXE TOUCH Don't miss The Hide, an undercover viewing platform 20 minutes from camp. This serene spot feels like you've the entire bush to yourselves, but we can't promise that giraffes, zebras and lilac-breasted roller birds won't join the party.

GO *Cazenove+Loyd (cazloyd.com) offers three nights at Mombo Camp from £4,800 per person, based on two sharing, including all domestic light aircraft flights, but excluding international flights.*

NEW

Omaanda
NAMIBIA

You know somewhere's special when it's Angelina Jolie-approved. And this new 9,000-hectare private reserve, 30 minutes' drive from Windhoek, is just that. In fact, it was the star who tipped off hotelier Arnaud Zannier that the land next to the N/a'ankusê wildlife sanctuary – a cause close to her heart – was for sale. The result is a property worthy of any A-lister; ten thatch-roofed huts, built in traditional Namibian style, in acacia-filled wilderness. Think mud huts can't be swanky? Think again. Each is a design-lover's haven where hand-woven baskets rub up against flower-filled antique pots, and Le Labo toiletries line sunken bathtubs with views of stretching plains where antelope roam. On twice-daily game drives, guides point out giraffes munching on shepherd's trees, herds of red hartebeest and, if you're lucky, thirsty rhinos lumbering towards waterholes. Back at the lodge, it's all about cosying up to one another on driftwood loungers by the infinity pool and ordering saffron-infused G&Ts from the shack bar, before huddling together around the boma firepit as night falls.

THE LUXE TOUCH The dinky spa hut looks unassuming, but the therapists have been trained by the top spa guru from Zannier's Cambodian hotel, Phum Baitang, where wellness is an art form.

GO *Red Savannah (redsavannah.com) offers four nights at Omaanda from £1,984 per person, on a half-board basis, including flights and transfers from London Heathrow to Windhoek on South African Airways via Johannesburg.* B

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