

THE SPEAR'S 500

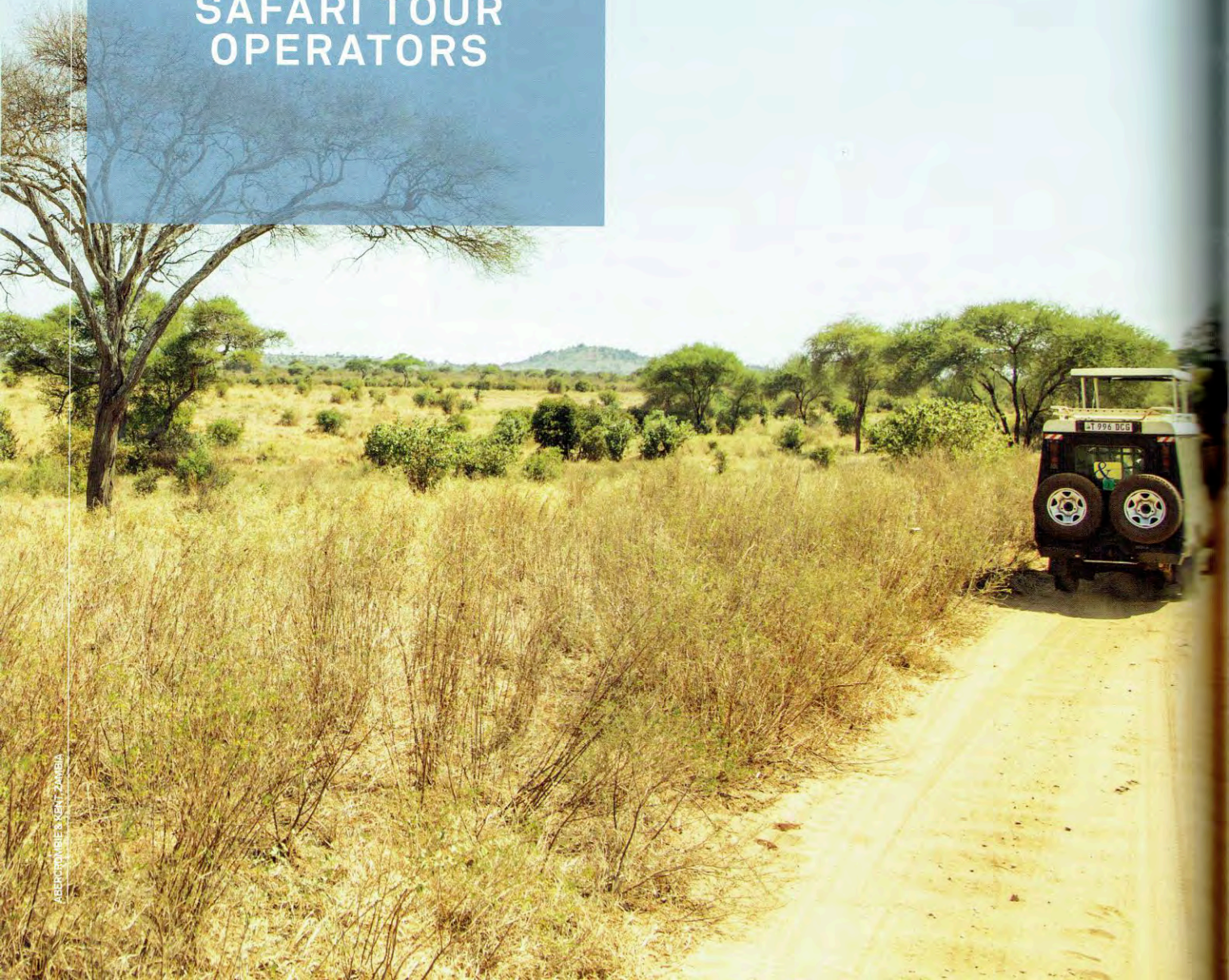
TRAVEL GUIDE 2018



The indispensable guide to the very best luxury hotels, resorts, holiday rentals,
and tour operators in the world, including aviation and yachts

SPEAR'S

TOP RECOMMENDED SAFARI TOUR OPERATORS



Robin Pope Safaris

Africa

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Founded in 1985, the family-run business Robin Pope Safaris offers a comprehensive range of locations in Zambia (Victoria Falls and South Luangwa National Park) and Malawi (Lake Malawi and Majete National Park), and has recently branched out into Zimbabwe. They operate bush venues offering 'rustic luxury, each small and intimate ensuring an exclusive and personal guest experience'. It promises incredible scenery, culture and beaches and 'outstanding wildlife, including leopard, lion, elephant, giraffe, zebra, buffalo, wild dog, hippo, to name a few — and more than 450 species of birds and an amazing array of tropical fish only found in Lake Malawi.' One client described their experience as 'beyond anything we've ever done'.

Safari & Beach

Africa

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Safari & Beach specialises in family, honeymoon and adventures such as hiking on Kilimanjaro and fishing. 'We also of course have some fabulous diving opportunities in the Indian Ocean off Zanzibar,' says Nick Jenkins, an Africa tourism veteran who set up Safari & Beach about eight years ago as an independent travel company specialising in tailor-made travel to East and Southern Africa. 'What we try to do is to make things simple and straightforward for people, in what can sometimes seem like a complicated place to visit,' says Jenkins. 'Some of the most special stuff we do are the luxury tented camps in the Serengeti, where people can witness some of the great migrations. We are also proud of the wonderful trips into the rainforests of Uganda and Rwanda.'

The Safari Collection

Masai Mara, Kenya

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Founded by Tanya and Mikey Carr-Hartley in 2009, the company has four distinct luxury and boutique-style camps and lodges in leading locations across Kenya: Giraffe Manor, Sasaab, Solio Lodge and Sala's Camp. Fourth-generation Kenyans, the Carr-Hartleys are descended from settlers, 'each of whom carved out their own paradise in an unspoilt wilderness... It is this pioneering spirit from which The Safari Collection was born. Our authentic, first-hand knowledge expands to the entire region, helping us to create unique, cutting-edge experiences,' they say. These include sightings of staggering numbers of rhino, a Samburu wedding, and the wildebeest migration in one of the quietest corners of the Masai Mara.

The Safari Specialists

Africa

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'**Small, passionate, professional** and based in Maun, the heart of Botswana's safari scene, The Safari Specialists is a niche safari tour operator run by Tom Grimes, who cut his teeth managing the prestigious South Luangwa National Park in Zambia. In fact, one of the company's special offerings is an exclusive 11-day package to South Luangwa, where guests can observe game on both the Zambian and Zimbabwean sides of the Zambezi River in the Mana Pools National Park. Other popular experiences include fly camping, chimp trekking, and walking safaris across the likes of Zambia, Botswana, Tanzania, Namibia and South Africa. Every detail is arranged to your preference: accommodation ranges from luxurious villas to basic fly camps.

Sanctuary Retreats

Africa

sanctuaryretreats.com

Sanctuary Retreats is an award-winning collection of individually designed luxury lodges in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa and Zambia, as well as boutique cruise ships on the Nile, Yangtze, and in Myanmar. Personal service, an extraordinary setting, exceptional viewing and enthusiastic expert guides are all hallmarks of a Sanctuary Retreats experience, and the brand goes by its guiding philosophy of 'Luxury, naturally'. The aim is to allow guests to have a 'real' experience and enjoy a more natural kind of luxury in properties that have a strong commitment to conservation and responsible tourism. From walking with elephants in Botswana to gorilla trekking in Uganda, Sanctuary Retreats provides inspirational travel experiences.

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Tanya Carr-Hartley
 The Safari Collection

