

WILDLIFE: ZIMBABWE

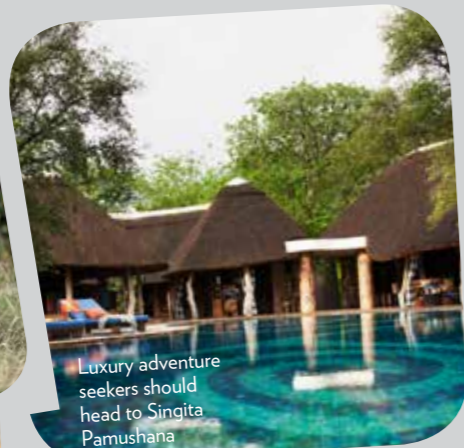
While planning a safari, blue-chip destinations like South Africa and Kenya immediately come to mind—but when is the last time you gave Zimbabwe a fleeting thought? Decades of economic instability have finally given way to a period of calm, and travellers are rediscovering what once made Zim one of the continent's top wildlife-spotting regions. "As Zimbabwe emerges from years of turmoil, we strongly recommend that you get here before this wave crests," says Sangeeta Prasad, co-founder of Chalo Africa (*Chaloafrica.com*), a safari-planning company based in New Delhi. "The real allure of a Zim safari for me will always be its superb and inimitable safari guides."

The ultimate place to experience Zimbabwe's pristine parks and diverse animal life under the guidance of its finest rangers is Singita Pamushana (*Singita.com*), the country's most opulent lodge and one of Africa's best-kept secrets. Each of the six suites come with an African-chic décor and expansive views over the Malilangwe Dam. Head out on game drives to track elephants, lions and the elusive black rhino, then make a day trip to the little-known (and often ignored by tourists) Gonarezhou National Park to take in the breathtaking vistas of the Chilojo Cliffs. End your visit with a sunset boat cruise along the dam, sipping on champagne while hippos bob in the distance.

The black rhino



Luxury adventure seekers should head to Singita Pamushana



Elephant-spotting in Zimbabwe



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TRAVEL

WHERE DO WE GO?

Shopping in New York, dining in Paris, snorkelling in Thailand—are your holidays starting to feel uninspired? *Vogue* takes you through some of the hottest under-the-radar destinations *du jour*, no matter what kind of vacation you're looking for.

BY SARAH KHAN

FASHION: SEOUL

Move aside, Milan and New York. There's a new contender for global style capital, as the world realises there's much more to Seoul's fashion scene than Gangnam Style. Frothy, festive and fun: these three words describe South Korea's booming K-pop world, as well as the fashion trends it inspires. "The traditional aesthetic is very conservative, and the new aesthetic is very anti-that," says Joyce Kong, a Seoul-based brand consultant. Local labels Cres. E Dim., Kye, and How And What are fusing traditional Korean fashion with Western silhouettes. The trendy shopping district of Myeongdong is a can't-miss destination, while Cheongdam is the place to get your fill of international labels like Gucci and Prada. Gingko tree-lined Garosugil is the ultimate people-watching locale, a place where local style mavens congregate: "On weekends, it's like a runway; people dress to the nines to be seen there," Kong says. If you're more into gathering inspiration from the locals and piecing together your own look, head to Dongdaemun, a wholesale market set in what was once the gate of the original city. Remember to haggle.



Myeongdong shopping district



Barbecues are an intrinsic part of the local food scene

FAMILY: SCANDINAVIA

Forget Disney World; children these days are a lot more worldly than that. "As Indians are getting more aware about travel, the kind of holidays they want has evolved a lot in the last five years," says Rupal Shukla, CEO and director of Tierra Travels (*Tierratravels.com*). In particular, Shukla cites a recent wave of interest in travel to Scandinavia among Indian families who've already covered Europe. Whale-watching excursions and the scenic Hurtigruten cruise along Norway's stunning fjords are family favourites, as is the Norwegian Children's Museum in Stavanger, where interactive exhibits include local toys and a retrospective of life for children in the 1960s. In Sweden, Shukla is a fan of



Chef Gipponi (right) has pioneered the closed-door concept

GASTRONOMY: BUENOS AIRES

The steaks are divine and the wines are legendary, but dining in Buenos Aires is no longer just about eating, it's about an experience. "The food scene used to be very conservative, consisting of barbecue, pasta and pizza, but now is a very exciting time," says Allie Lazar, a food writer and blogger at the popular food site Pick Up The Fork (*Pickupthefork.com*). Concept dining is on the upswing: take, for example, the chic boutique hotel Fierro, in the city's trendy Palermo Hollywood district, where every Monday night at the One Table event, chef Hernán Gipponi fixes a massive communal table, capped at 20 diners, with a seven-course meal. Gipponi himself sits at the head of the table explaining his ever-



Fried baby squid One Table

changing menu (from grilled beef heart to duck breast and Basque sausages). "There aren't many eateries in the world where you are invited into such an intimate dining experience to have a secret peek into the chef's kitchen," says Lazar.

One Table is a new take on BA's wildly buzzing *puerta cerrada* phenomenon. These closed-door restaurants are private supper clubs, offering communal tables in the homes of the chefs themselves. Our pick from the many *puerta cerradas* popping up all over the city is I Latina, set discreetly in a house in the Villa Crespo neighbourhood. Behind its massive black doors, a trio of Colombian siblings turn out a Caribbean-inflected menu of ceviche with mango and coconut, confit duck with tamarind sauce and quinoa and more. The best way to dig into BA's overwhelming food scene is with an insider: you can book a food tour with Lazar through Latin America specialists Blue Parallel (*Blueparallel.com*).

the Skansen Open-Air Museum & Zoo in Stockholm, where kids stroll through different eras of Swedish history; stepping back into time with visits to goldsmiths' huts, glassblowing and pottery workshops, then getting up close with moose, bears and wolves at the zoo. Future pilots are sure to get a kick out of Jumbo Stay (*Jumbostay.com*), a hotel set in an actual jumbo jet. Grown-ups love Copenhagen for its cutting-edge food scene, but there's plenty to keep kids busy, too. Head to the historic Tivoli Gardens—built in 1843, it's one of the oldest amusement parks in the world. Children can't get enough of the wooden roller coasters, giant swings and the world's tallest carousel. For those who just can't forget Disney World, here's a fun fact: Tivoli is the place that inspired Walt Disney to open his famed theme parks. Add a day trip to nearby Billund to visit Legoland, and this trip has all the makings of a holiday to remember.

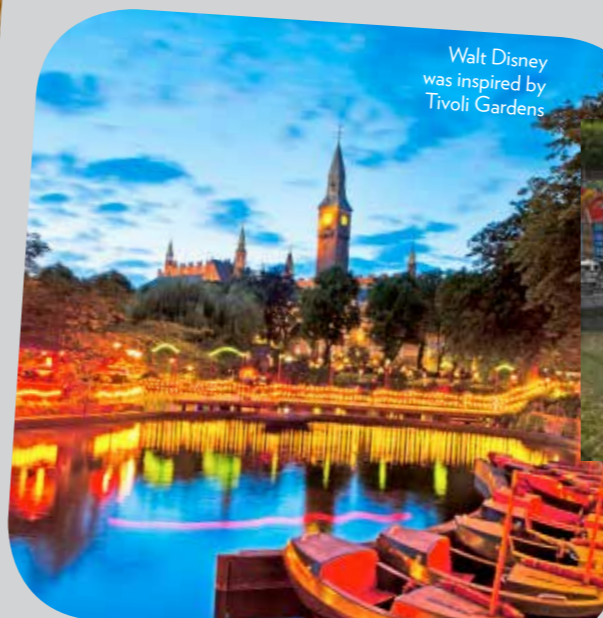
ADVENTURE: THE PHILIPPINES

Thailand's overrun by hippies, and you can't avoid running into everyone you know in the Maldives. What's a discerning diving enthusiast to do? If you ask Tom Marchant, co-founder of holiday planners Black Tomato (*Blacktomato.com*), the Philippines is the next big water-sports destination. "It's a relatively new area to explore," he says. For diving, he picks the Pamalican Island and its surrounding coral reefs, accessible only by private plane in the Cuyo region. Other hot spots include resorts Amanpulo in Palawan, and Shangri-La Boracay, Ananya in Bohol. For surfing, visit Siargao and Baler. "Ariara Island is a great option if you are looking for some adventure with a dollop of luxury," he adds. "It's a private island, so the entire island is yours to use." Activities here include hiking, waterskiing, scuba diving, snorkelling and kite surfing. Robinson Crusoe never had it this good. ■



The Philippines is the new diving destination

Walt Disney was inspired by Tivoli Gardens



Legoland

