



25 Classic Adventure Trips & How to Do Them Right

They're called classics for a reason. These are the journeys with the **EPIC LANDSCAPES, WILD ANIMALS, AND WILDER CULTURES** that challenge you to contend with circumstances beyond your control. They're trips with the power to change your life.

SOUTH AFRICA & BOTSWANA **Big-Game Spotting in Africa**

There are few thrills like the first yellow flash of a lion's mane or its guttural roar, which makes the whole veldt shudder. And there are few places you are more likely to experience such things than South Africa's Kruger national park, one of the oldest wildlife reserves in Africa. Within its 5 million acres almost every major species of

African animal thrives, including 1,500 lions and 8,000 elephants. Explore (888-596-6377, exploreafrika.net) has led safaris to Kruger for 15 years, putting travelers up at luxe bush camps, such as Royal Malewane, a six-room lodge built on stilts and connected by aerial walkways. How you view the game is up to you. Guides lead dawn and dusk trips — when you have the best chance to see a kill — either in an open-topped

Photograph by
FRANK HEROLD



Land Rover or on foot, when encounters with animals take on a more intimate quality. Either way, go in July or August, when the grass is low, and you're virtually guaranteed to see the Big Five — leopard, lion, buffalo, elephant, and rhino. For the ultimate two-week safari (*custom trips start at around \$6,000 for two weeks, including air transfers, meals, and luxury accommodations*), combine Kruger and a smaller park in South

Africa (such as Madikwe Hills, known for its rare wild dogs and boulder-strewn landscape) with Botswana's Okavango Delta, a 6,000-square-mile maze of channels that empty into the vast Kalahari Desert. Accessible only by plane or boat, the Okavango is best explored from Stanley's Camp, eight tents overlooking the Boro River in the most wildlife-dense part of the delta. Guides lead game-paddles in *mokoro* canoes, silently ap-

proaching elephants, black rhinos, and water buffalos. And, if you're lucky, more lions.

ALASKA

Sea Kayaking Prince William Sound

No other place in North America provides one-stop shopping for superlative arctic wilderness — massive peaks,

The grassy plains of South Africa's national parks are the stomping ground for all of the Big Five, and the world's tallest creature, the giraffe.