Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa







Cheetah Plains, Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa

This is no traditional safari lodge, but 3 modernist, 4-suite houses, each an amalgam of timber, metal, and stone, designed by the Cape Town-based architectural firm ARRCC. Each house has every imaginable luxury, including heated pool, wine cellar, and private chef and butler, and works by major South African artists adorn the walls. The reserve abuts wildlife-rich Kruger National Park and whisper-quiet electric game drive vehicles whisk you to this oasis.

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Namiri Plains, Serengeti, Tanzania

Completely rebuilt, this is now one of the most beautiful and sophisticated small camps in this vast park, a showcase of contemporary African design in canvas, stone, and wood. It's also in the Serengeti's remote eastern corner. The area was closed for 20 years to allow cheetahs to rebound. And have they ever. Venture out with your guide in the morning, then return to the privacy and silence of Namiri. Heaven.

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Mpala Jena, Zambezi National Park, Zimbabwe

This sumptuous, Relais & Châteaux haven from Great Plains Conservation--just 4 tents and a 2-bedroom suite (think leather couches, four-poster beds) in a private concession within the park--has superb wildlife viewing, an environmentally innovative design (it runs on a Tesla solar battery system), and a level of luxury that has been missing in Zimbabwe. Victoria Falls is within easy reach.

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