

From its cliff-edge perch with vertiginous views of the Ngorongoro Crater, the lodge literally sways (right); Masai guard of honour (below)



premier charter operator, corroborates this trend since Auric has been chartering everyone from Emirati "businessmen" sheikhs to Indian industrialists.

Apart from team-building programmes, jungle lodges also offer cocktail parties post the hectic daily parlaying. Saprta has curated sunset cocktails on luxury catamarans mid-ocean for Chinese investors besides champagne breakfasts in the bush after a balloon safari over the Serengeti.

Some philosophically-minded companies are even opting for reflective safari retreats to educate staff on conservation and sustainability. Born and bred in Africa, Saprta foretells a growing niche for mindful luxury as a lucrative choice, inspiring conservation-driven "transformative" experiences, hoping that at least some of these funds get recycled into sustaining Africa's ecosystem. The price jump for private safaris can be as much as US\$20,000 (₹16.8 lakh) pp sharing for 14 nights on regular safari to US\$20,000 for seven nights for an "Ultra" experience.

TRAVEL BUSINESS

Retreats at Namiri Plains

Stunning new retreats overlook endless expanses of the remote eastern Serengeti, kitted out with uber luxurious trappings, as stylish as sustainable, these retreats drip glamour with 24x7 butlers on call, your own private boma for sundowners and food that allows personal indulgences to flavour menus. Sip sparkling rosé as your private chef bakes fresh breads, if not pizza, for supper. Where epicurean idiosyncrasies craft personalised culinary journeys, these new retreats offer the best in bespoke. Best of all though is their specialist guide Juma, Tanzania has no better birder; he has exalted birding to an art form.

USD3000 (₹2.51 lakh pp)

•• www.asiliaafrica.com

Asilia Jabali House

The ineffably beautiful and deliciously private Jabali House in southern Tanzania, demonstrates how style, sustainability and, indeed, sybaritism can make for a merry ménage à trois. Stacked up high on a ridge overlooking a brutally stark landscape, it offers cutting-edge suites that are perfect for a private getaway. Dining spots levitate dizzyingly cliff-edge but you have to come

down to earth for sun downers by the camp fire. But the highlight, surely, are the Jabali Ridge guides who can ferret out a fox nestled in a camouflaged rock outcrop by the mere twitch of an ear tip. Morning safaris can culminate in a champagne breakfast on a hill teetering over a riverbed.

US\$1520 (₹1,27,656.67) pp, per night

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Jabali House at Jabali Ridge, has made a destination out of Ruaha National Park in southern Tanzania