

From top: Founders Camp, Marataba; joining in rhino conservation; safari by electric vehicle, Emboo River Camp; room for relaxation back at base



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: zebra arrive for a drink; learn more about local culture from the Maasai; elephant are a common sight at Emboo River; a hotspot for wildlife

CONSERVATION

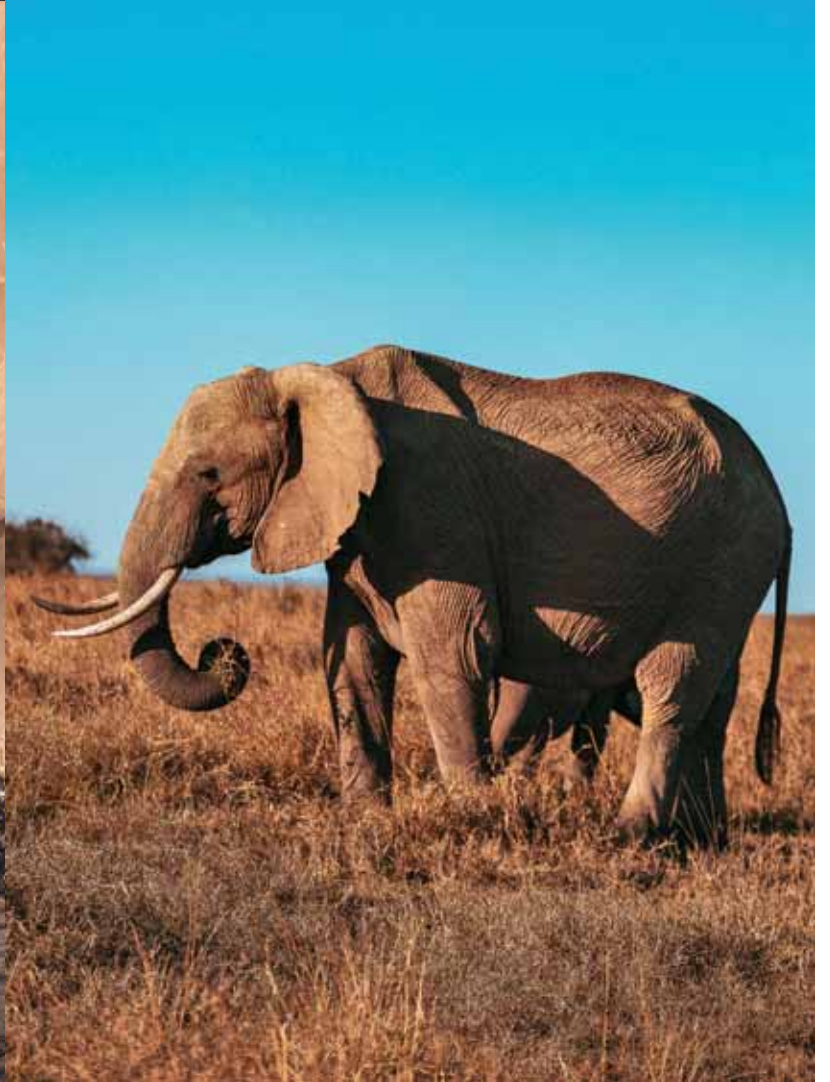
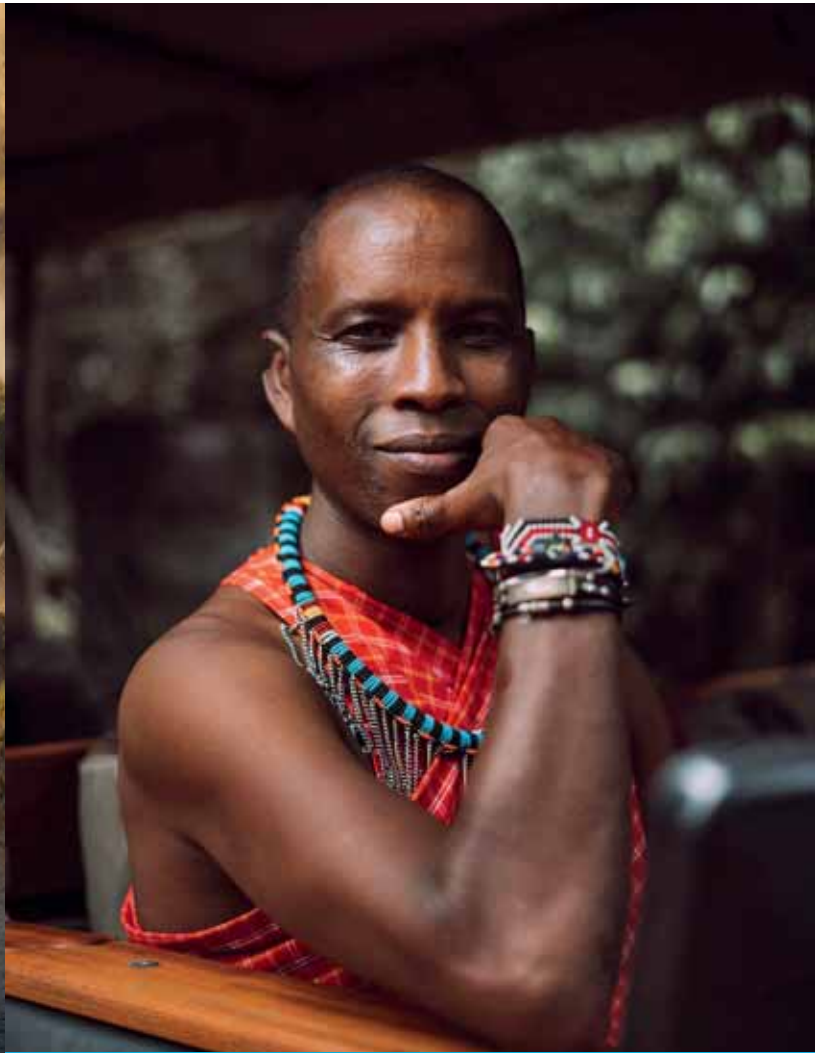
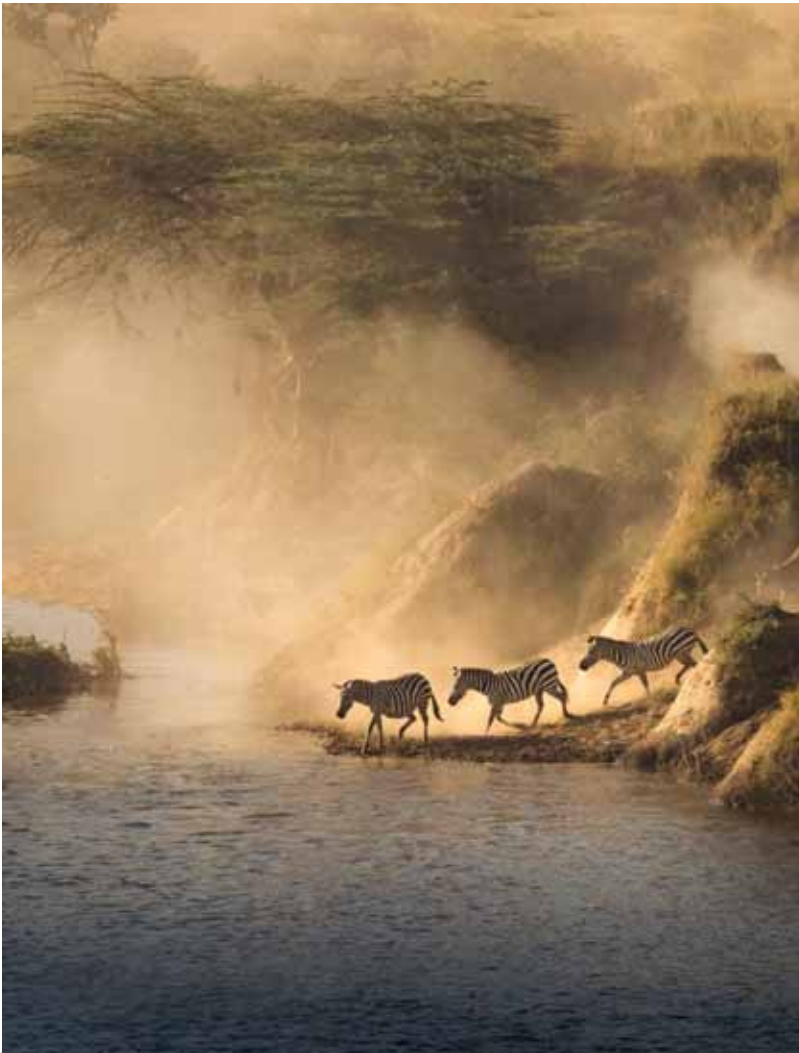
MAKE A GENUINE DIFFERENCE BY HELPING SUSTAINABILITY AND PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, KENYA AND MOZAMBIQUE

Off the beaten track and yet easy to reach from Johannesburg, **Marataba Conservation Camps** upgrade the safari experience from animal observation to tangible mammal management. Sure, you can enjoy boat cruises along the scenic Matlabas River, track cheetah on foot and soak up the luxury of the Founders Camp suites, but you'll also spend time with the conservation team on the ground in this section of Marakele National Park at the foot of the Waterberg Mountains. Learning about snare patrol, ecology surveys and habitat rehabilitation grants an insider's understanding of what it takes to maintain this wild place. Although, to be frank, the most exciting opportunity has to be rhino management. The team uses ear notching patterns to recognise individual rhinos in order to better monitor the population and take action when something goes wrong. The long-term objective is to have every single rhino at Marataba identified. To achieve this, they run three-day Rhino Conservation Safaris (this year, they start on 8 and 11 August) dedicated to the registration of the animals. Help fund and join in the action of immobilisation and notching the animal, then inserting a DNA microchip into the horns and body.

Being light on the earth takes on a whole new meaning at **Emboo River Camp**. Instead of chugging across the savanna, startling zebra or wildebeest in a diesel 4WD, you'll float through the grasslands of Kenya's iconic Maasai Mara in one of the region's first electric game drive vehicles. This luxury camp runs solely on solar energy, thus powering the all-electric fleet of cars, but the conservation of resources doesn't end there. Every aspect of the carbon-negative safari – right down to your meals – honours the ecosystem. Emboo champions plant-forward plates with 100 percent farm-to-fork meals from their two organic vegetable gardens (all cooked using biogas) and aims to run an entirely eco-friendly kitchen. Chefs have already booted cling film, tin foil and parchment paper from the cupboards and shun single-use items, opting instead for the likes of beeswax paper, metal straws and cloth napkins.

Sussurro Mozambique is likewise looking at the bigger conservation picture while providing a seriously upscale seaside safari. Set in a pristine lagoon of the Bazaruto Archipelago, this new, light-footprint lodge will have you sailing on dhows across sapphire seas and dipping below the surface for world-class underwater outings. The Bazaruto Archipelago National Park is Mozambique's oldest Marine Protected Area and hosts 141 bird species, 18 reptile species, 21 mammal species, five dolphin species, plus an estimated 180 dugongs. Then there's the seafood. Mindful attention ensures every table supports local fishermen, organic farmer's markets and sustainable traders with the likes of crispy salt and pepper chilli squid, aubergine ravioli folded in rocket-cashew pesto and traditional curried mangrove crab. A stay here also enables every guest to physically offset the emissions of their visit by helping reforest the Nhamabwe salt pan with indigenous mangroves.

THE DETAIL **Marataba Conservation Camp** from £287pp, based on 4 guests (3-night min). Doubles at **Emboo River Camp** from £629. Doubles at **Sussurro Mozambique** from £724 (2-night min). maratabacamps.co.za emboo.camp sussurro.co →



Photos by Brian Siambji; Emboo River Safari; Sasha Juliard