

BEST FOR GOING IT ALONE

Self-drive safaris, Namibia

A self-drive safari? Daunting it shouldn't be. Pick up a normal 2WD car at Windhoek and away you go. Namibia's roads are mostly good, straight and empty, making light of long distances.

A 14-night self-drive itinerary in Namibia

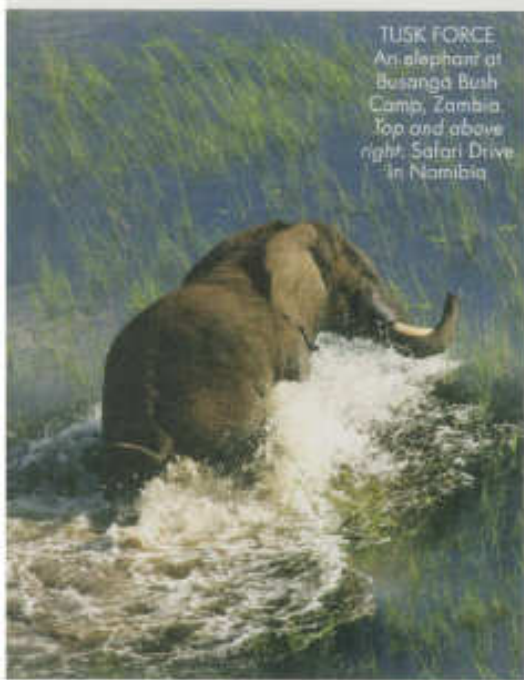
LINE
for
LESS



5 OF THE BEST...

BEACH HIDEAWAYS FOR A POST-SAFARI FLOP

Where better to wash off the safari dust than beside the Indian Ocean? Over the years, a unique architectural style has evolved here, a blend of bushveld baroque and Swahili coastal culture that has spread all the way down to Mozambique and beyond. Here are Africa's best barefoot beach lodges, mostly fashioned from natural materials – driftwood, mangrove poles and Makuti thatch; these are back-to-nature crash pads, far removed from conventional resort hotels.



TUSK FORCE
An elephant at
Busanga Bush
Camp, Zambia.
Top and above
right: Safari Drive
in Namibia

BEST UP-AND-COMING DESTINATION

Busanga Bush Camp, Zambia

Zambia is vast, wild, unspoilt and hugely under-rated. While nearby Zimbabwe has been rocked by turmoil, Zambia has been quietly improving its image. Kafue, its largest national park, is woefully overlooked; but that is changing. Balloon safaris are new this year. Wilderness Safaris has now moved in, and its Busanga Bush Camp is a perfect base for exploring the endless grasslands.

A seven-night trip, including three nights at Busanga Bush Camp, three nights at Mayukwayuku (also in Kafue) and one night at Eight Reelbuck in Lusaka, costs from £3,109 a person full board, including flights, transfers and game activities, with African Explorations (01993 822443; www.africanexplorations.com).