

CONDE NAST BRIDES HONEYMOON GUIDE

2017

“It’s hard to imagine a more authentic place”



CONDE NAST **BRIDES** **HONEYMOON GUIDE** 2016/17

The 100 best honeymoons in the world
THE SEXIEST BEDROOMS, SUBLIME TROPICAL BEACHES & SLICK CITY STAYS
Every one is **BRIDES APPROVED**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Turquoise
The Turquoise Holiday Company



SAFARI
rising stars

THESE NEW STANDOUT CAMPS ARE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE REST. THINK OTHER-WORLDFLY LOCATIONS AND KNOCK-OUT DESIGN WORTHY OF AN INTERIORS MAG

HOANIB SKELETON COAST CAMP *Namibia, Africa*

COMPARED WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, Namibia remains relatively undiscovered, making it the perfect under-the-radar destination for intrepid couples, who are rewarded with rugged, unspoiled landscapes (*Mad Max: Fury Road* was filmed here), robust wildlife populations and an award-winning safari camp. The eight luxury, solar-powered 'tents' have chic, polished concrete floors and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a watering hole that's frequented by elephants, oryx and other mammals. Each of the sumptuous tented lounge areas come with a fire pit, library and a well-equipped, gleaming bar. Hessian rugs and cashmere blankets are in muted hues of taupe, cream and grey, accented with the occasional elegant piece of minimalist Scandinavian wooden furniture. Outside is a shady, canopied terrace, plus an intensely Instagrammable plunge pool – modelled on a drinking trough (elephants can, and do, sip from it). It's these desert-adapted, elephants, and the rare desert lions, that are the main draw here, but there are also brown hyenas, jackals, springbok and, along the Skeleton Coast, fur seals. However, it's the stark other-worldly scenery, and the coastline dotted with shipwrecks and whale skeletons, that'll linger in your mind longest.

WOW FACTOR A scenic flight in a six-seater Cessna to the coast is a must. The soaring sand dunes deliver majesty and romance – and after a day of wildlife encounters to wow even the snobbiest of safari junkies, you'll settle down by the fire pit, cocktails in hand, for some of the best stargazing in the area.

GO Black Tomato (blacktomato.com) offers one night from £300 per person, all inclusive →

10 HOURS, 20 MINUTES

BRIDES 29

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**Safari
stars**

LINKWASHA CAMP *Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, Africa*

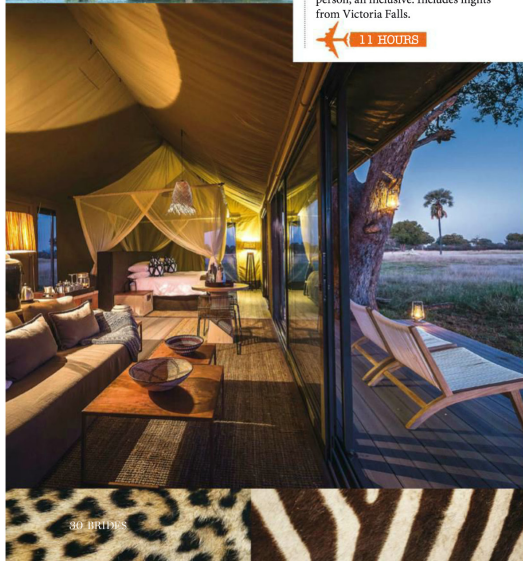


THIS CAMP ONLY OPENED IN MAY 2015 AND HAS ALREADY SET THE BAR IN HIGH-END LUXURY. Expect just seven superbly designed tents situated around a covered, but open, airy communal space, stuffed with sleek furniture, and surrounded by panoramic views of the bush. Mornings are an early affair with a flurry of blankets, steaming coffee and excitement as you set off for your first game drive. Anticipate seeing elephants galore, lions, hyenas, water buffalo, hippos, giraffe, zebra – the lot. And if you're lucky, you might get to glimpse an African wild dog (there are only about 2,500 left). After a snooze and snack, why not scare yourselves silly with a walking safari; you will feel like David Attenborough. Come evening, the best spot for truly jaw-dropping sundowners is on a platform above a watering hole, with hundreds of thirsty elephants drifting towards you.

WOW FACTOR Listening to some of the legendary tales from the brave guides at Linkwasha; you'll be quaking in your boots.

GO Africa Odyssey (africaodyssey.com) offers three nights from £1,640 per person, all inclusive. Includes flights from Victoria Falls.

 **11 HOURS**



80 BIRDS



JAWAI LEOPARD CAMP *Rajasthan, India*

WITH A HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM AT THE HELM, local villagers trained up as drivers and nomadic herdsman roaming the land, it's hard to imagine a more authentic place. Part of the Suján Luxury collection (a cluster of unique, family-owned properties), this isn't your typical safari. You won't see the big five here, but you will see leopards – and get a fully immersive cultural experience. You can join in street games with the locals in village tours, hike temple trails, go on cycle trips and even visit a Unesco-protected fort. But the shy big cat is firmly at the centre of it all and the guides are fantastic – try to bag Vedant if you can as his knowledge of the animals is unmatched. The camp states it has a one-in-three-drive-sightings rate, but we saw three leopards within a 24-hour stay, including an awesome night drive. The interiors are all monochrome prints, and stainless steel, contrasting wildly to the dusty yellow, scrubby landscape. All of the hallmarks of a luxury camp are here (hello, free laundry and ludicrously soft beds with fluffy hot water bottles), but what really makes this place is its staff. Lengthy nights spent chatting around the campfire pass as if you've found long-lost friends...

WOW FACTOR A guaranteed front-row seat for the leopard action – and unlike many camps, you won't see another 4X4.

GO Greaves India (greavesindia.com) offers three nights from £2,099 per person. Includes flights and transfers →

 **8 HOURS**

