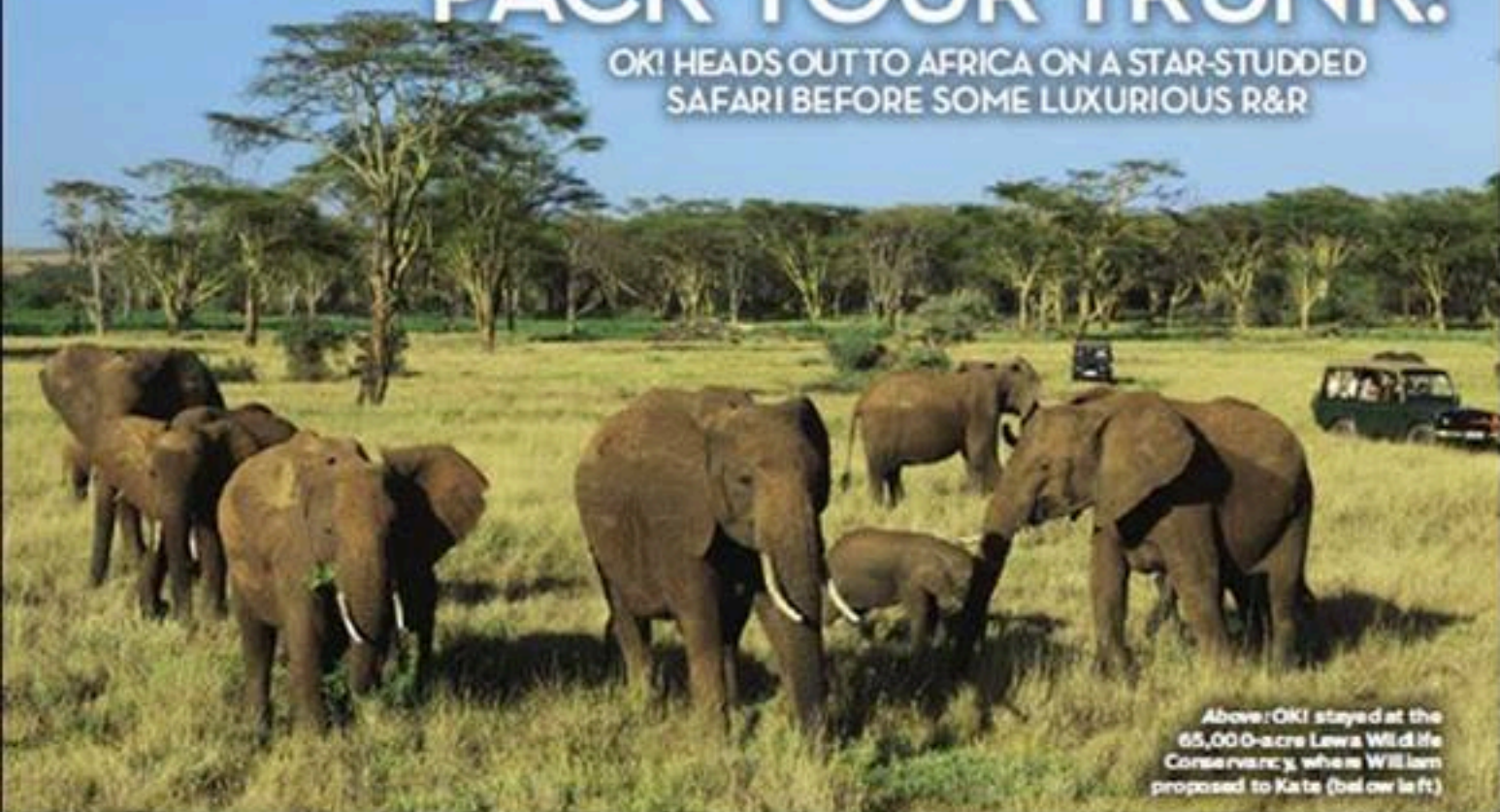


PACK YOUR TRUNK!

OK! HEADS OUT TO AFRICA ON A STAR-STUDED SAFARI BEFORE SOME LUXURIOUS R&R



Above: OK! stayed at the 65,000-acre Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, where William proposed to Kate (below left)

With the world as his oyster, where did HRH Prince William choose to propose to Kate Middleton? Kenya – a country that's been close to his heart for years and one that he refers to as his 'second home'.

Waking up next to endangered wildlife just outside our luxury tent, with the majestic Mount Kenya as our backdrop, OK!'s Chloe Reeves soon discovered why this captivating place attracts both royals and celebrities alike.

During an amazing trip, which saw us board seven flights in seven days, we enjoyed a wildlife adventure in the heart of the breathtaking African wilderness, as well as enjoying some downtime on Kenya's sandy coastline.

WHO GOES?

It was during a holiday to Kenya in 2010 – when William and Kate were staying at one of the isolated Rutundu Log Cabins at the Lewa Safari Camp – that he proposed to his now wife. You may also spot royalty of the fashion world, as Naomi Campbell has been known to visit – she stayed at former boyfriend Rivaldo Brantão's Lion In The Sun resort last year. Back in 2011, Peter



OK! enjoyed lunch beside Ol Malo's infinity pool.

Andre and his family checked into Elsa's Kogge, sister hotel to the Lewa Safari Camp and location for the 60s movie *Born Free*. Other safari fans include Roman and Storm Keating, who've been in South Africa enjoying their honeymoon at the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, staying at Sir Richard Branson's Ulusaba Safari Lodge.

SAFARI – SO GOOD!

OK!'s first stop was Ol Malo in Northern Laikipia in the north-east of the country. The resort hosts only a handful of guests at a time, ensuring that visitors have an intimate experience. The privately owned lodge and game sanctuary has a commanding position on a rocky escarpment overlooking a river, affording breathtaking views of the untamed landscape. The family-run 5,000-acre ranch is reached via private airstrip, or by taking a 50-minute internal flight from Wilson Airport in south Nairobi, followed by a 60-minute drive. And the safari started as soon as we came in to land as we spotted a herd of giraffe.

On arrival, we were shown to one of four cottages – made from local stone, olive wood and topped with a thatched roof – in the grounds, which had a lovely veranda offering views over the plains. We soaked up more views over lunch



Our first stop was a safari cottage at Ol Malo.

taken next to the infinity pool with the family's baby pet zebra as company!

Set the alarm for a sunrise camel safari in the wildlife sanctuary. Our trek led us to an opening where a pop-up breakfast was laid out, featuring local yellow passion fruit and coffee using milk freshly squeezed in front of us from our camels! When the sun goes down and the temperature drops, Ol Malo House keeps guests warm with a barbecue on the open terrace under the twinkling stars. A lovely way to finish our wildlife-packed day.

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT...

It's a short flight from one tiny private bush airstrip to our next one at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. From there we're driven to the Lewa Safari Camp, which boasts the most spectacular wildlife viewing a cross 65,000 acres of protected wilderness.



The Lewa Safari Camp is vast – and rooms are gorgeous.

Recently designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lewa is often referred to as the country's most successful wildlife conservancy and it's where Princes William and Harry undertook conservation work.

The best way to explore the reserve is on a 4x4 land cruiser with a guide, who'll take you through the constantly changing landscape in search of wildlife. For the more adventurous, there are guided bush walks so you can get even closer to the wildlife. OK! was happily snapping a white rhino when our guide received a call that a pride of lions, comprising two lionesses and their three cubs, had been spotted half an hour from us. We arrived just in time and parked up beside them, watching in awe as the sun set.

At Lewa, OK! stayed in one of the 11 thatched-roofed tents that come with an en-suite bathroom and veranda. Guests congregate in the lounge area, where they dine in front of a roaring log fire, although some meals take place in

the heart of the reserve – one morning, we were driven to a secluded spot for breakfast served in a mobile shift kitchen, while monkeys jumped between the trees above! Then, one night we were driven to one of the high-tide points of the park to take a seat at the ultimate pop-up bar to witness a stunning sunset, G&T in hand!

TIME TO HIT THE BEACH!

After our action-packed few days on safari, OK! flew to the coast of Malindi for a spot of beach relaxation. We checked into the all-suite,



all-inclusive Diamonds Dream Of Africa hotel, located on the sandy shores of the Indian Ocean, about a two and a half hour flight north of Mombasa. Guests stay in spacious contemporary suites with large balconies that are housed in a series of low-rise buildings linked by stone pathways and gardens.

After admiring wildlife on land, we got to explore the marine life below the water's surface on a boat trip with Blue Fin (www.bluefindiving.com) to the Watamu National Marine Park. Here we snorkelled with beautiful fish and even spotted an octopus lurking on the ocean floor, before having lunch on board.

Activities to keep us amused back on dry land included beach yoga, water aerobics and pampering sessions at the hotel's Mvuus spa, which has several thalassotherapy pools. One evening, the hotel set up a candlelit dinner on the beach, where we enjoyed a sublime seafood feast to the backdrop of gently lapping waves. A perfect way to end our truly memorable African adventure.



After our fix of the wildlife (top) it was time to relax by the pool (below) at the Diamonds Dream Of Africa hotel.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Chell & Peacock (www.chellpeacock.com) offers a four-night Laikipia safari package, including two nights at Ol Malo (www.olmaloi.com)

and two nights at the Lewa Safari Camp (www.lewasafaricamp.com) from £1,113pp on a full-board basis. Price based on two sharing and includes three domestic Safarilink (www.flysafarilink.com) flights, safari activities, park fees, all transfers and meals. Diamonds Dream Of Africa (www.dreamofafrica.com) offers junior suites from £175 per night all-inclusive.

Kenya Airways (www.kenya-airways.com; 020 8283 1888) operates daily flights on its new 8787 Dreamliner from London Heathrow to Nairobi from £722 including tax and to Mombasa via Nairobi from £643 including tax. www.kenya-airways.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE EXPERT TRAVEL TEAM ON 020 7302 0810 OR VISIT WWW.MAGICALKENYA.COM

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5 OF THE BEST HOT HOLIDAY MUSTS!



1 OAXIS BENTO SPEAKER, £49.99, www.oxaxis.com plays audio files from your mobile phone or to press play, place your phone on the speaker.
2 LULU GUINNESS RED LIPS VANITY CASE, launch from the British accessory designer. It comes with slots for make-up brushes and a 3 H&M WHITE'S CREASE DECREASE, £15, vital when travelling, but that's where this nifty little one! It's dry, clothes are crease-free! The same.
4 SKINNY TAN 7-DAY TANNER, £26.99, AND COOK. The self-tan buds to a nice even colour on the beach. Kelly Hoppen liked it so much.
5 EGO PROFESSIONAL EGO TRIP, £46.95, contains a hair dryer and straighteners. Don't think of the use of foul-weather precious stones donating enough profits from sales to fund a