

Issue Four 2008

tourism

TATTTLER

OFFICIAL TOURISM TRADE JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA TOURISM SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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Southern Africa Tourism
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July / August 2008

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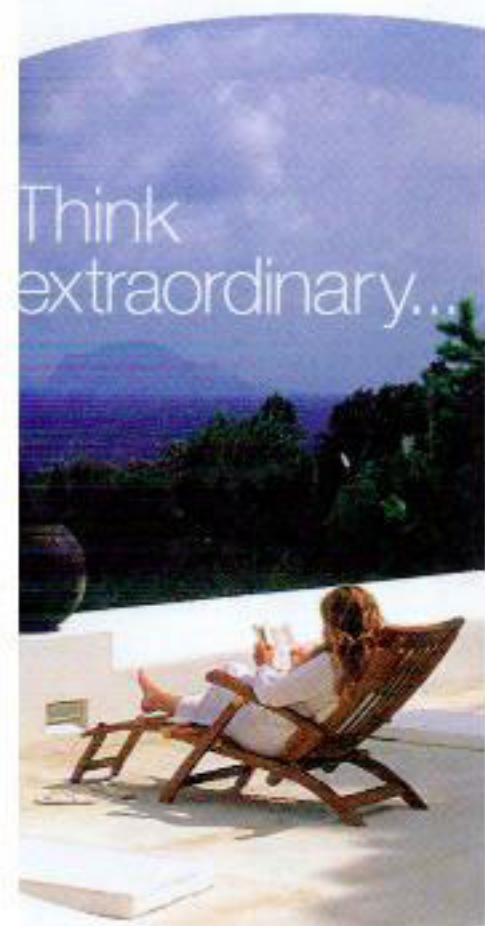
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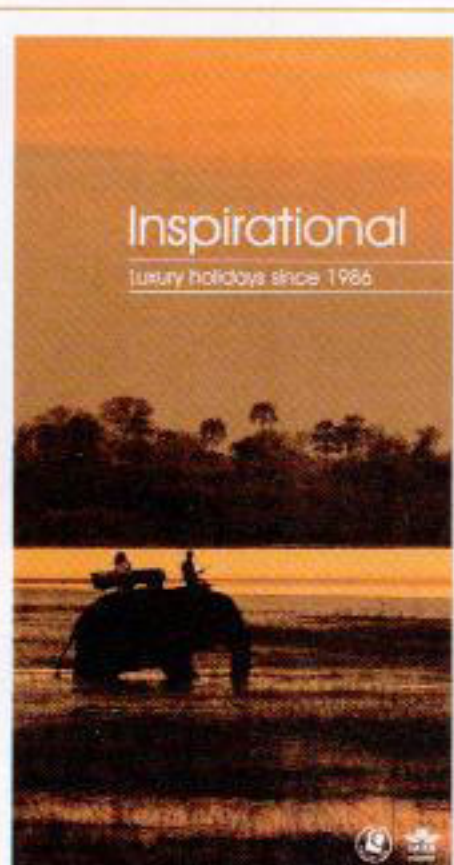
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Travel Trade Snippets

Campaign to raise awareness of the impact that tourism has on Africa

An international campaign aimed at reducing the impacts of inbound tourism on Africa has been introduced by the Heritage Environmental Management Company. Tourism and the impact that this industry has on the environment, cultures, local customs and the natural resource use of host countries poses one of the most serious threats to the future of Africa. With one in eight South Africans employed in the tourism sector and related industries, and similar employment patterns across Africa, unmanaged and poorly planned tourism can seriously impact on the sustainability of Africa and its communities.

The campaign aims to raise awareness among inbound travellers, travel companies and tour operators of the impact that travel and tourism has on communities and fragile eco-systems around the continent. For more information: Greg McManus, greg@qualitour.co.za

Southern Sun to build new hotel in Johannesburg



Johannesburg is to have a new four-star hotel, situated above the Hyde Park shopping centre at the junction of Jan Smuts Avenue and William Nicol Drive.

To be called the Southern Sun Hyde Park, the 132 – room hotel will be built above one of the current car

parking areas. The rooms will face north, offering views of the northern suburbs, and towards the Magaliesberg.

Southern Sun is delighted at the opportunity to open a new property linked to this upmarket shopping centre, and strategically placed for business travellers. The cost of the new hotel will be upward of R180 million, and it is scheduled to open mid-2009. Southern Sun will be undertaking this development in conjunction with Hyprop Investments and Madison, and it promises to be quite a challenge in both architectural and engineering aspects.

New hotel opens on Zambezi

The new David Livingstone Safari Lodge and Spa in Livingstone recently celebrated its grand opening on the banks of the Zambezi river, upriver from the Victoria Falls. African in design and concept, the 72 rooms and five suites of the lodge all face the river, overlooking Siloka island. Design and décor is quintessentially colonial, varied with elements of raw stone, wood and earth, glamourised by gold, bronze, copper and ivory, all once traded on ancient Arab routes. A hint of Zanzibar décor compliments the alluring spice colours of the orient.



Offering guests a restaurant, bar and conference facilities, it is suitable to cater for large groups. The Lodge, as well as the Greater Victoria and Livingstone area, offers a variety of safari excursions and activities, including world-class river rafting, bungi jumping, gorge swinging, river surfing and abseiling. The Lady Livingstone, a brand-new three-deck, 144-seater river cruiser, enables guests to experience Africa at sunset on a river cruise down the Zambezi River. The Spa promises to be a sanctuary for the senses with an African twist.

The hotel will be managed and marketed by the Three Cities Hotel Group.

Mini Rangers course

Makalali Private Game Lodge has introduced a Mini Rangers Course to their many offerings at the lodge. Families can now book a holiday

at Makalali and arrange for their children to attend a three-day course that deals with medicinal uses of plants, survival techniques, how to find and purify water, warning signs of dangerous animals, first aid and much more. At the end of the course the children will write a test and receive a certificate in a graduation ceremony.

Chris Daniel, Head Game Ranger and Deputy General Manager of Makalali says, "The Mini Rangers' training will be done around the camps with the duration being no more than one and a half hours per day. This course will allow parents to have much needed alone time which they can spend by the pool or on their private sala overlooking the Makhutswi River."

For more information please contact Makalali on 015 793 9300 or email reservations@makalali.co.za.

Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre has cubs



The Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre is delighted to announce the arrival of another two litters of healthy cheetah cubs. What makes these particular arrivals different is that one of the tiny cubs born is the very rare King Cheetah.

The litter was born on the evening of Sunday 6 April. Father Tom is a King Cheetah. For further information, please contact: info@cheetahcentre.co.za.

Sanctuary Lodges and Camps launches its new lodges in Zambia

A former Presidential retreat and a collection of secluded luxury tree-houses are amongst the new circuit of Zambian safari lodges being launched this autumn by Sanctuary Lodges and Camps. While these Zambian lodges vary in style and character, all will offer guests impeccable levels of service and comfort whilst allowing them to discover the spectacular wildlife and beautiful scenery of this relatively unknown African destination.

All of the properties were rebuilt and renovated by a luxury lodge specialist to operate on an environmentally sustainable basis. Optional activities range from bush breakfasts and picnic lunches to exclusive night game drives, walking and sunset river cruises – with all schedules customised according to guests' desires and the movement of the African animals. For more information on Sanctuary Lodges and Camps, please visit: www.sanctuarylodges.com

New appointment at Orion Hotels

Orion Hotels and Resorts has announced the appointment of Deon Steyn as Deputy General Manager Operations. Steyn has been in the industry for 13 years and has extensive experience in all aspects of hotels and restaurants. Previously with the Don Group and later the prestigious four-star Farm Inn Hotel in Pretoria for seven years, Steyn also went on to gain significant restaurant experience before joining Orion at the end of 2007. For further information, please contact: fgmeiner@oriongroup.co.za

World Travel Awards

It was 'Win Win Win' all the way for South Africa at the first World Travel Awards Africa Ceremony, held in partnership with the international Convention Centre, Durban at Indaba. South Africa won a range of the coveted top awards for the whole of Africa.

Todd Neuman, Vice President of South African Airways was presented with Africa's Leading Airline award; Heinz Grub, Chief Operating Officer and Area Manager, Arabella Starwood Hotels and Resorts received the Africa Leading Family Resort award on behalf of Arabella Western Cape Hotel and Spa; Cllr. Grant Haskin, Cape Town's Deputy Mayor received Africa's Leading Destination and Wally Gaynor, Managing Director of Club Travel, scooped the Africa's Leading Travel Agency Award.