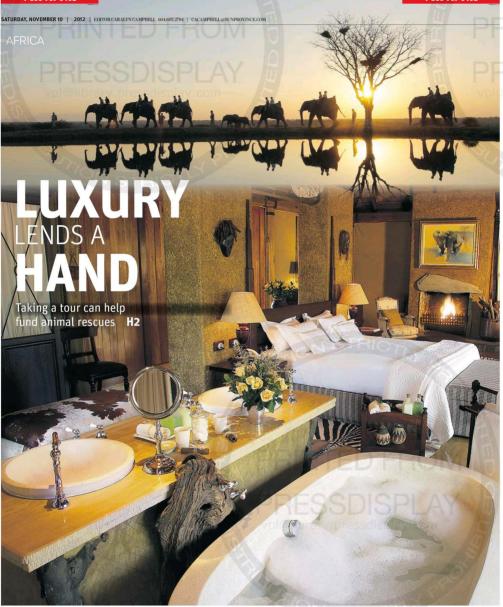




TRAVEL





ONLINE

High adventure?

Marijuana legalization votes this week in Colorado and Washington state open the door for marijuana tourism.

INSIDE | H5

B.C. Snow Scene A weeklong trip to to B.C. left one American couple with a dilemma — which is better, Whistler or Blackcomb? They happily decide on a tie.



INSIDE | H7

Going to extremes

The tourist magnet of San Pedro de Atacama in Northern Chile overflows with backpackers pumped for adventure – and they get it in spades in the remote wonderland.



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Safaris that help save animals' lives

Consider an African wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre for your next adventure

MARK SISSONS

Tracking rehabilitated chee-tahs and leopards through the African bush as they learn to hunt and survive again in the

wild.
Riding on the backs of res-cued elephants on a sunset stroll to their favourite water-ing hole, where they finally feel safe from poachers. Observsale from poachers. Observ-ing and interacting with wild orphaned chimpanzees as they begin new lives on their rain-forest island sanctuary. Sound like your kind of a safari?

Sound nike your kind of a safar?

Then consider visiting one of these extraordinary wildlife of these extraordinary wildmonths of the control of the con

Okoniima and the AfriCat Foundation, Namibia

Nestled on 200 square kilometres of private nature reserve midway between the Namibian capital of Windhoek and Etomidway between the Namibian capital of Windhoek and Etosha National Park, Okonjima is home to the AfriCat Foundation, a non-profit organization working to foster conservation and environmental awareness. Since 1993, AfriCat has rescued over 1000 cheetals and leopatore 1000 cheetals



Orphaned baby elephants can find a home at Camp Jabulani in South Africa, a luxury safair lodge in the heart of the Kapama Game Reserve.

work and meet 'ambassador work and meet 'ampassador cheetahs' — cats that cannot ever be reintroduced into the wild and are used to educate

wild and are used to educate visitors.
"Sadly because you have to hand raise them, you can't release orphans like these," explains AfriCat's Donna Hanssen as she enters an enclosure to feed four hungry young ambassador cheetahs. Their mother was shot by a farmer while still pregnant with them.
These four are exceptionally

"These four are exceptionally sweet. We call them the Adams

family — Morticia, Wednesday,

family — Morticia, Wednesday, Pugsy and Gomez."
Built along with three other lodges to generate revenue for Africat, Okonjima's ultra-luxurious Grand African Villa overlooks a natural water hole in a seculed widerness area within the reserve where animals can come and go freely et with a R tomes complete with a R tomes complete with a R tomes complete with a dedicated safari guide, private safari vehicle and Hollywood pedigree. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed here

before the Namibian birth of their daughter Shiloh. (www. okonjima.com and www.afri-cat.org)

Hoedspruit Centre, South Africa

The Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) is another research, conservation and rehabilitation facility in southern Africa working to preserve and renew the continent's dwindling numbers of big cats. It focuses on releasing

TVD .

captive-bred cheetahs to the wild, breeding endangered, vulnerable or rare animal species, and caring for orphaned or injured animals. Here, you can have educational and often intimate encounters with cheetahs, lions and leopards that are now among the continent's most endangered species.

continent's most endangered species.
"The HESC is living proof that people can make a difference to the long-term survival of the planet and its animal inhabitants," says Adine Roode, whose late mother, Lente, founded the facility in

Lente, roanse.
1990.
Eventually, Lente Roode
opened the HESC to injured,
orphaned and endangered animals of all species.

opened the HESC to injured, orphaned and endangered animals of all species. Unlike Africak, which strictly prohibits visitors from physical properties of the problem of th

way. Camp Jabulani's trained herd of elephants was also rescued by the HESC and its members are renowned for their gentle

are renowned for their gentle temperaments. The camp's first elephant, 16-year old Jabulani, was orphaned at four months and hand-reared by Lente Roode herself. (www.campjabulani. com and www.hesc.co.za)

Samara Private Game Reserve, South Africa

Saminar Private a same Reserve, South Africa
Samara is one of South Africa
ca's most progressive private game reserves, as well as
a luxurious safari retreat in a
malaria-free part of the country called the Great Karoo.
"We fell in love with the
Great Karoo, its vast beauty,
its wildness and the potential to restore it, "realis Sarah
it to restore it, "realis Sarah
it or love it is a state to a
power 70,000 acres of derelict farms with her husband,
Mark over a decade ago. They
then began tearing down kilometer of the same of the
progression of
pr

the Tompkins and the nearby De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Situated on a majestic pla

Situated on a majestic pla-teau with spectacular views of the sweeping Plains of Camde-boo, Samara's Manor House is a beautifully restored historic homestead that can accom-modate up to eight guests in four spacious air-conditioned suites.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE





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CONTINUED | FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Just outside, an infinity pool flows into a watering hole where game congregates in the early morning and late afternoon, including some of the cats who came back to the Great Karoo thanks to one couple's vision and perseverance. (www.samara.co.za)

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda

As century ago, nearly two million chimpances thrived in Africa's forests and bush. Today, fewer than 200,000 cmain. They continue to disappear at an alarming rate due to wholesal destruction of their habitat, hunting of adults for their meat in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, and poaching of their orphaned ofspring rasile as illegal exotic pet exports. The continue to the continue the continue the properties are seen them to sanctuaries across the continent where they can live out their lives, since they would never be able to survive in the wild. Ngamba Island is one of those sanctuaries. Established in 1998 to care for orphaned chimps recurd by the Uganda wildlife Authority, this 40-hectare refuge on Lake Victoria near Entebbe, Uganda cares for over 40 orphaned chimps rescuents with six and local sand in the continue that the continue the continue that the

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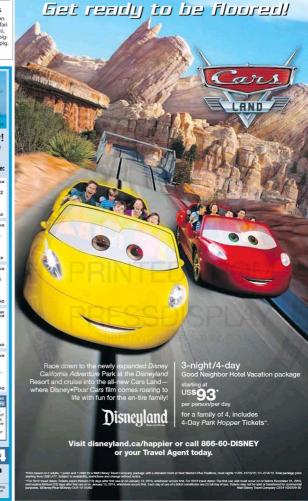


Visitors to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre get the chance for hands-on contact with the animals.



spend up to six months on the island. (www.ngambaisland.com) Recommended outfitters

Visits to these wildlife sanctuaries can be booked through the Heritage Safari Company (www.heritagesafaris.com), Big Five Tours & Expeditions (www.big-five.com) or Truffle Pig (www.trufflepig. com).





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