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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 2012 | EDITOR CARALYN CAMPBELL 604.605.2784 | CCAMPBELL@SUNPROVINC.COM

AFRICA

LUXURY
LEND A
HANDTaking a tour can help
fund animal rescues H2

ONLINE

INSIDE | H5

High adventure?

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

B.C. Snow Scene

A weeklong trip 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

A black and white photograph of a young elephant standing in a savanna landscape. The elephant is positioned in the lower center of the frame, facing right. It has a small, curled trunk and large ears. The ground is dry and covered with sparse grass and small plants. In the background, there is a line of trees and bushes, and a bright sky. The overall scene is a naturalistic depiction of a young elephant in its habitat.

At Okonjima you can radio track AfriCat's rehabilitated leopards and cheetahs as they roam freely and catch their own prey within the reserve. Then visit the Carnivore Care Centre to learn about the foundation's

It comes complete with a personal host, private chef, dedicated safari guide, private safari vehicle and Hollywood pedigree: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed here

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

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)

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

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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

A century ago, nearly two million chimpanzees thrived in Africa's forests and bush. Today, fewer than 200,000 remain. They continue to disappear at an alarming rate due to wholesale destruction of their habitat, hunting of adults for their meat in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, and poaching of their orphaned offspring for sale as illegal exotic pet exports. African authorities who confiscate baby chimps from poachers or market vendors send 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 rescued by the Uganda Wildlife Authority, this 40-hectare refuge on Lake Victoria near Entebbe, Uganda cares for over 40 orphaned chimps. Staff also educates visitors and local communities about our primate cousins and the importance of conserving their fragile forest habitat.

At Ngamba Island you can view either a morning or afternoon feeding from a platform area along the edge of the sanctuary fence and listen to informative talks by sanctuary staff. Day and overnight visits (staying in luxury tents) can be booked through the safari outfitters listed below. Volunteers with previous primate care experience can



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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