

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

South Africa's 'Call of the Wild'

By Lisa Loverro

While tracking a leopard in the Sabi Sands private game reserve, my guide assured me the tree-swinging baboons are harmless. "They just like to play," said Westley. Later upon returning to my villa to find three of them frolicking in my plunge pool I thought to myself, "Welcome to Africa"!

Splendor in the Savannah

A safari is a once in a lifetime experience that will more than likely change people's view of the world. So make it a memorable one by matching your clients with the perfect lodge. Most offer various types of lodging within the same complex. Singita (www.singita.com) for instance, has three camps; the more exclusive are Ebony, and Boulders, and their intimate hideaway, Castleton, accommodates just 12 guests. Ulusaba (www.ulusaba.com), Sir Richard Branson's lodge has two very distinct and different accommodations. Rock Lodge, the more posh of the two, sits high atop a rocky mountain while Safari Lodge, aptly named for its location directly down in the bush, is where visitors would be more likely to see an elephant or two roaming by their



JOCK SAFARI LODGE

windows. Jock Safari Lodge (www.jocksafarilodge.com) just underwent an extensive refurbishment program so successful that the lodge re-earned its five-star status.

All are located in the Kruger National Park and Sabi Sands region, both considered to be the best in the country for viewing the Big Five (elephants, lions, etc.) They are easily accessible by air from either Cape Town or Johannesburg via a short flight on SAAirlink (www.saairlink.co.za).

Historical Johannesburg

For history buffs, Johannesburg should be on the itinerary. Although not as well known as Cape Town for tourism, the city houses the Apartheid Museum and South Africa National Museum of Military History, both very educational and worthwhile sights. A visit to the town of Soweto, birthplace of Nelson Mandela is more than worth the trip and can be arranged through tour