



SAFARI THRILLS

Shambala, South Africa

Tucked away in the Waterberg mountains, three hours from Johannesburg, this is an easy-peasy safari to take the kids on, with no hassle and no bugs. Super-safe and impeccably managed, it's 12,000 hectares of fenced-in nature reserve with lion and rhino a-go-go. A huge set of wooden gates opens magically to the lovely Rebecca, a cheery, fresh-as-an-apple Cornish woman (but one who carries a gun) – there's nothing the lady don't know about the bush. Zulu Camp, 16 honeycomb-shaped chalet-pods made from native reeds, is all Indochine-relaxed – dark woods and crisp, white sheets. This may be the bush, but count the towels in your room – a staggering 42. There are no set times for anything, the Lord be blessed, so no need to wake your sleeping badgers at 5am (always way too hectic), and game drives, spa treatments and what you want to eat when you want to eat it is all set by you. Ah, the relief. Juicy burgers, white-chocolate puds; chef Lois will conjure it up in a flurry. The spa, next to a stream, is an experience in itself. And the game... little ones will want the big five even if they don't know it – you'll see them. You might even get charged by an irate hippo on the lake that forms part of the landscape. And don't forget the elephant rides that frisk even the most lugubrious teenager.

BOOK IT

Three nights from £3,395, including flights with British Airways. africatravel.co.uk or 020 7843 3585