

**TATLER**  
Abercrombie & Kent

# Travel Guide

2002



101 BEST HOTELS

## Eco chambers

Keeping the green peace in the wilderness

### BAY OF FIRES LODGE

Tasmania

**P**ut on your Timberland boots for some designer hiking. Bay of Fires, a contemporary eco-lodge, is the only building in the wilderness of Mount William National Park, and you can walk with wombats, wallabies and Tasmanian devils in untouched country. Built above pristine sandy beaches, the two timber-and-glass pavilions were designed for minimum impact on the environment: all materials were brought in by helicopter or by hand. The decks have fantastic views and the food and delicious wine is all local. The bedrooms are minimalist (wimp warning: loos and showers are separate), which enhances the feeling of freedom.

**Tel** 00 61 3 6331 2006 **Fax** 00 61 3 6331 5525

**Website** bayoffires.com.au

**UK reservations** Bridge the World  
(tel: 0870 444 7474)

**Rates** Double, £960 for three nights

### ROYAL MALEWANE

South Africa

**I**f you want luxury with your lions, this lodge is the cat's pyjamas. The 510-square-metre Presidential Suite is the largest in Africa; it sleeps four and is the latest in über-safari pampering. A private chef, masseur and butler service are included. Royal Malewane has just five other outrageously extravagant suites with Ralph Lauren linen and food that might make Gordon Ramsay weep. Helicopter or executive jet? Just ask. And there's a good chance of seeing the Big Five the Thornybush Game Reserve.

**Tel** 00 27 15 793 0150 **Fax** 00 27 15 793 2879

**Website** royalmalewane.com

**UK reservations** Abercrombie & Kent  
(tel: 0845 070 0611)

**Rates** Suite, from £630; Presidential Suite, from £2,240



ROYAL MALEWANE  
South Africa

### KAPAWI ECO-LODGE

Ecuador

**R**eached only by canoe, Kapawi was built with the help of the indigenous Achuar tribe. Solar energy is used and the 20 thatched cabins are built on stilts in the lagoon, to minimise the effect on the surrounding rain-forest. The Amazon basin is one of the most biodiverse areas on earth, with river turtles, giant otters, fresh-water dolphins and more than 10,000 plant species. While lying in the hammock on your private balcony, you can watch parrots and toucans flash past. The Achuar, a friendly people who have neatly avoided being conquered or dispossessed by oil-drillers, will take you into the forest to learn about the herbs that their shamans use. Or try piranha fishing. Kapawi is comfortable, a place of simple elegance where you go to enjoy an untouched way of life, to trek in the jungle and visit the Achuar communities. The food is very good and there is decent wine but, if you are dedicated to bar-hopping, think again – the nearest town is 10 days' walk away.

**UK reservations** Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions (tel: 020 7386 4646)

**Rates** Cabin, from £430 for three nights

### KINASI LODGE

Mafia Island, Tanzania

**T**he new, cool place to go after a safari in the Selous Game Reserve – you can even be picked up by plane from any of the camps. The 12-room lodge was built as a private home, and it feels relaxed and friendly, with touches like specially commissioned, handblown glass. The breads, pizzas and jams are all homemade, and the seafood is freshly caught. Kinasi is also the tranquil base for the ultimate aquatic safari. Overnight trips are organised to the northern tip of Mafia Island and the islands and reefs to the south. The tents are specially designed for the beach but, after a day of diving over rarely visited reefs, you usually sleep under the stars. Kinasi overlooks Chole Bay, where you go out on a boat with trained diving assistants, first-class equipment and a splendid picnic. Those deprived of retail therapy can go to the local markets; as part of its conservation drive, Kinasi has started a development programme for local handicrafts.

**Website** mafiaisland.com/kinasi.htm

**UK reservations** Steppes Africa  
(tel: 01285 650011)

**Rates** Double, from £190



DUNTON HOT SPRINGS  
Colorado

### DUNTON HOT SPRINGS

Colorado, USA

★ **WINNER OF THE TATLER AWARD FOR BEST LODGE 2002**

**D**unton was a Wild West ghost town, where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid supposedly holed up after robbing the bank at Telluride. Ten million dollars later, you can hardly tell that much has changed. The roofs are still covered in rusted plates of corrugated iron, the cabins built of split, weathered logs. But go inside and you're through the looking-glass. The Indian teepee conceals one of the retreat's many hot springs; the saloon, where Cassidy's name is carved, is a 'gourmet dining bar'; the cabins, with names like Geyser and Echo, have heated slate floors and are full of Santa Fe antiques. One building contains a library – a wedding present from owner Christophe Henkel to his wife – and a roaring fire. You can go riding and mountain biking in summer, and snowmobiling and skiing in winter.

**Tel** 001 970 882 4800 **Fax** 001 970 882 7474

**Website** duntonhotsprings.com

**UK reservations** Mason Rose  
(tel: 020 7235 3245)

**Rates** Double, from £270 (full-board)