



News on The Royal Livingstone, Bazaruto Island Resort, Avani Victoria Falls Resort, EcoTraining, Adventure Consults, Sierra Leone, Mara Siana, Atua Enkop, JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge and the Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport

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Dear Colleague,

Right before Thanksgiving, Jenna and I returned from an epic adventure visiting all our clients in **Kenya**. I have to say, we have a terrific portfolio (at all price ranges) and our clients are awesome to work with. And having nine nights in the **Mara** was pretty spectacular!

We visited all five of the **Atua Enkop** properties starting with **Elephant Gorge** in **Amboseli**, a spectacular property that will be just 20 minutes from the park gate come March (*they're building a new road!*).

Moving north from **Nairobi, Elephant Bedroom Camp** was lovely and the wildlife viewing outstanding. Yes, we had rain — and the camp was evacuated for two weeks just as we were leaving — but it has since reopened. By the way, the Northern Big Five were out and about in Samburu.

Mbweha Camp in the **Great Rift Valley** was a nice surprise. We had an outstanding night game drive, and my new favorite nocturnal animal is a Spring Hare. Ducking into the national park, we saw lions and rhino and tons of other game. Sundowners at **Lake Elementaita** were extra special.

At **Mara Ngenche Camp** we enjoyed the plunge pool, the hammocks and being pampered by the staff. We finished our tour of the **Atua Enkop** properties at **Tipilikwani Mara Camp**, a larger property with huge tents on the **Talek River**. Great value and their bathtubs are outstanding!

We stayed three nights at the new **Mara Siana Camp** in the **Ripoi Conservancy**. Owned by three legendary Masai guides (including Jackson Looseyia) and three American women investors, the camp is really special. So far they only have four tents open, so Mara Siana is very intimate. The guiding, the food and the conservancy were

exceptional and tracking a lion with two of Kenya's top guides was incredible.

Then it was on to what I now consider **EcoTraining's** best camp — the **Mara Training Centre at House in the Wild**. During our stay, five students were doing a guide training course. Yes, shared bathrooms and showers, but they are just a few steps from the dorms. This is a terrific option for people who want in-depth guide training or African nature study, especially those on a tight budget.

After saying goodbye to Jenna, I pampered myself with a two-night Spafari at the **JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge**. Since I'd already been in the Mara for seven nights, I decided to just relax, enjoy the world-class spa, and hang out in the Canon Photo Studio. The staff was exceptional, the vegan food delicious and there was a steady stream of guests using the complimentary Canon cameras and then editing their photos with the two resident photographers.

Lots of other news this month. Let me or Jenna know if you would like to talk Kenya and any of our clients there!



The Emerging Destinations team

Jane, Jenna & Ana



Upcoming Webinars

News at a Glance

Anantara Southern Africa, Mozambique & Zambia

- **Discover Bazaruto's Endless Summer Package.** From sky-high dunes to an aquatic wonderland, connect with adventure on our alluring island. Stroll over soft white sands, explore a natural aquarium in balmy waters and watch the sun set from a spectacular spot over the archipelago. More info [here](#).
- **A Royal Festive Season.** Spend Christmas and New Year in the ultimate breathtaking setting of The Royal Livingstone Hotel by Anantara, a green paradise tucked into the world-renowned beauty of Victoria Falls.

Mara Siana, Kenya

- Meet [Jackson Looseyia](#) and [Salaash Ole Morompi](#) two of the Directors of Mara Siana Camp.

They both share wonderful messages inviting you to join them at their camp in this small private corner of the world, located next to the Maasai Mara.

EcoTraining, Southern Africa & Kenya

- Looking for an interactive vacation for families? EcoTraining's immersive family trip recently featured. Check out the full article [here!](#)

Sierra Leone

- Sierra Leone has **won the Earth Shot Prize** for a project called "[Freetown the Treetown](#)"!
- We are pleased to announce that Sierra Leone is listed on [National Geographic's Cool List 2024](#): the 30 most exciting destinations to visit in 2024. Which has also been featured in [USA Today](#) and [The Street!](#)

JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge, Kenya

- Starting from January 1, 2024, the **new Masai Mara park fees** will apply to all existing and future bookings with travels from next year. Read full details [here](#) . If you have any questions, do let us know and we will do our best to assist you.
- JW Marriott Masai Mara has been named [the winner](#) of AHEAD Awards!

Atua Enkop

- **Mara Ngenche** - Take advantage of this incredible **10% discount** on all reservations made between now and December 22, 2023.
- We would like to announce the temporary closure of our [Elephant Gorge Camp](#) in Amboseli, effective Tuesday, the 14th of November 2023. During the closure, the camp will undergo an expansion that will include new rooms, revitalizing of the main areas as well as many other new improvements. We expect to be fully operational with all the changes by **Easter next year** and look forward to welcoming your clients to the enhanced and upgraded Elephant Gorge Camp!

Upcoming Travel!

Emerging Destinations On The Road

We are pleased to invite you to any of the six **Texas** events in **December** to introduce you to our portfolio of cool companies & cool places. If you would like to schedule an appointment please email ana@emergingdestinations.com

Dallas:

* Monday, December 11th, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Breakfast Presentation. Signature Room at Commons Club (Virgin Hotels Dallas). 1445 Turtle Creek Blvd, Dallas, TX 75207

Austin:

* Tuesday, December 12th, from noon to 2 pm. Lunch & Learn Presentation. Stella San Jac Restaurant (The Westin Austin Downtown). 310 E 5th St, Austin, TX 78701

San Antonio:

* Wednesday, December 13th, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Breakfast Presentation. Four Brothers Restaurant (Omni La Mansion del Rio Hotel). 112 College St, San Antonio, TX 78205

The Woodlands:

* Thursday, December 14th, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Breakfast Presentation. Caffe Di Fiore. 10110 Woodlands Pkwy #900, The Woodlands, TX 77832

Houston:

* Thursday, December 14th, from noon to 2 pm. Lunch & Learn Presentation. Patagonia Grill Restaurant. 8408 Katy Fwy Suite 220, Houston, TX 77024

or

* Friday, December 15th, from noon to 2 pm. Lunch & Learn Presentation. Conchita Room at Caracol Restaurant. 2200 Post Oak Blvd #160, Houston, TX 77056

RSVP: Karen Bouchard at karen@emergingdestinations.com (please add on subject line the event/city you'll be attending; ie: "Breakfast in Dallas"). Space is limited.

Keeping Fit on Safari



The **JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge** in Kenya makes it easy to keep fit while you're on safari via a state-of-the-art fitness center, classes and counseling as well as a large outdoor swimming pool. Enjoy the tranquility of the African wilderness while still focusing on your health at the lodge's fully equipped Fitness Center.

[More here.](#)

Famous People from Sierra Leone

From actor Idris Elba and comedian Franklyn Ajaye to prima ballerina

Michaela De
Prince and rising
tennis star
Frances Tiafoe, a
number of high-
profile individuals
trace their roots
to **Sierra Leone**.



Actor and
musician Idris Elba (or to use his full name, Idrissa Akuna Elba) was born and raised in
London to parents who had immigrated from Sierra Leone and Ghana.

[More here.](#)

Go Wild At Avani Victoria Falls Resort



Set out on the adventure of a lifetime at **Avani Victoria Falls Resort**, only
steps from one of the world's top wonders — Victoria Falls. Encounter zebras
grazing the lawn and giraffes ambling past your balcony or patio. Take in the
majesty of the falls your way – on foot, in a helicopter or even a microlight.

At sunset, float down the Zambezi River. Welcome to wonderful.

Enhance your Stay in Nairobi

From Kenyan culinary



spreads and a luxury spa experience to cocktails and nature escapes, **Crowne Plaza** offers numerous ways to enhance your stay at Nairobi Airport's premier hotel. Experience the vibrant local flavors at Kenyan Delights, a diverse buffet of traditional dishes offered in the hotel's Kitchen 9 restaurant at lunch. [More here.](#)

Lions and Cheetahs and Buffs, Oh My!

Wondering what wildlife you can spot (and photograph) while staying at **Mara Siana Camp** in Kenya? Mara Siana is a small upscale safari camp in the newly formed Ripoi Conservancy, a stunning undiscovered near the famed Masai Mara National Reserve. Unique in East Africa, the camp is 50% Masai and 50% female owned.



[More here.](#)

Not As Crazy As It Sounds - A Uganda - India Combo Vacation



With the launch of thrice weekly service between Entebbe and Mumbai in October, it's not possible to easily combine Uganda and India in the same vacation. The highly anticipated inaugural flight took place on Saturday, October 7th.

[More here](#)

Whales, Wakeboarding and Warm Tropical Waters in Mozambique



Fulfill your escapist dreams on the exotic **Bazaruto Island** off the southern coast of Mozambique and revel in boutique villas with their dazzling ocean views. Set out on dugong, turtle, dolphin and whale watching trips.

[More here.](#)

Elephant Bedroom Camp

This intimate upscale tented camp in north-central Kenya provides an astonishing safari experience.

Elephant Bedroom Camp is set along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River and shaded by doum palms and other trees that comprise a green belt of riverine forest running through Samburu National Reserve.



[More here.](#)

What's Africa's Largest Rodent? You'll Never Guess

These little creatures are



feisty! They are covered with thick, bristle-like hairs and have quills and spines on their backs and flanks. The spines on their tails are hollow and open-ended, and when feeling threatened, they shake their tails to create rattling sounds, which is quite intimidating. They also display other warning signs, such as stomping, hissing and grunting.

[More here.](#)

			
			
			
			
			
			

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Contact Us:

Jenna Farber at +1 (306) 202-8471 | jenna@emergingdestinations.com

Ana Kammerer at 1 (404) 496-5099 | ana@emergingdestinations.com

Jane Behrend at +1 (404) 993-6116 | jane@emergingdestinations.com

info@emergingdestinations.com

www.emergingdestinations.com

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