

FYI Travel: It's not too late to book an African summer safari

by Tom_Roebuck

Travelers who remain undecided about their vacation plans this summer can take heart. Robin Pope Safaris in South Luangwa, Zambia, still have spaces available for a limited number of 10-day walking safaris over the next few months.

After the first two nights at Nkwali Camp, guests drive up the spine of the South Luangwa National Park to the remote wilderness of the Mupamadzi River, a tributary of the Luangwa River. The next five days they walk down the river exploring the wilderness and seeing up-close abundant wildlife and exotic plants. Nights are spent in a tented camp that is broken up every day and moved ahead of the campers to the next location. The final three nights will be at Tena Tena, Robin Pope's first luxury bush camp.

Pope, who has lived in Zambia all his life, was one of the first walking safari specialists in Africa. His three camps, with stylish accommodations, attentive service, fine dining and some of the best guides in Africa, are set up near or in the Southern Luangwa National Park. This area is often called the finest wildlife sanctuary in Africa, covering more than 5,592 square miles.

WALKING ACROSS AFRICA - Under a dramatic sky, a walking safari group makes its way across the Mupamadzi River in South Luangwa, Zambia. CNS Photo courtesy of Robin Pope Safaris.

The following dates and spaces are available: July 10, two spaces; July 15, four spaces (nine nights); Aug. 30, six spaces; Sept. 8, two spaces; Sept. 13, four spaces; Sept. 23, four spaces; and Sept. 14, four spaces.

FYI: Walking tours cost \$5,580 per person. For more information or reservations, contact jo@robinpopesafaris.net or visit www.robinpopesafaris.net.

PAIN AT THE PUMP

Gas prices continue to climb as summer vacation season approaches, so Valley Forge, Pa., is offering travelers free gas for the trip to visit the historic family vacation destination. The Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide a free \$35 gas card to visitors who book a two-night stay in participating hotels through Sept. 30.

Participants in the free-gas promotion will also receive a free King of Prussia Mall discount guide; a complimentary McDonald's Happy Meal coupon; and a chance to win a two-year lease for a 2007 Chevy Impala LT.

Valley Forge is 18 miles Northwest of historic Philadelphia and offers a diversity of appeals and historic, cultural and family attractions, and an array of restaurants and hotels for every budget. Highlights include Valley Forge National Historical Park; the King of Prussia Mall, the nation's largest shopping retail mall; and countless must-see Philadelphia attractions.

FYI: Visitors must book their rooms online at www.visitvalleyforge.com or by calling 866-838-4748.

RISING TEMPERATURES, FALLING PRICES

The temperatures are warm, sidewalk cafes are filled and Central Park is bustling, signifying summer in New York City. In honor of the season, The Carlton on Madison Avenue has unveiled its Summer in the City package inviting guests to savor all that New York has to offer starting at \$264 per night.

With the Summer in the City package, guests will enjoy The Carlton's spacious guest rooms, as well as a \$50 hotel coupon that can be used toward the final bill. Guests may choose to enjoy a meal at the Michelin-star Country, Geoffrey Zakarian's visionary restaurant, or put it toward the general room rate.

The Carlton is located just minutes from area attractions including the Empire State Building, Grand Central Station, Union Square, Macy's at Herald Square, Madison Square Garden and the shops on fashionable Madison Avenue.

Rates are per room, per night, based upon a two-night stay. Rates are not applicable to groups of 10 rooms or more. This offer is valid on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only except for Aug. 16-Sept. 15, when the package is available each day.

FYI: To book the Summer in the City package, visit www.carltonhotelnyc.com or call 800-601-8500.

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