

Up, up and away!

ON LOCATION

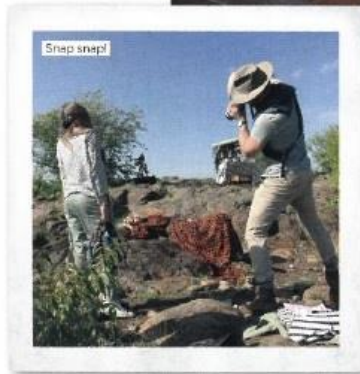
For this month's cover shoot, the fashion team took to the plains of Africa, staying at andBeyond's Kichwa Tembo Safari Camp to walk on the wild side

As the single propeller aircraft descends through the clouds and the vast expanse of the Masai Mara opens up below, it strikes the C&TH fashion team that there couldn't be a more perfect backdrop for the March travel issue fashion story than andBeyond's Kichwa Tembo Safari Camp in Kenya.

On disembarking from the 40-minute plane journey from Nairobi, they are greeted by their ranger and immediately immersed into safari life, with elephants and giraffes just a short distance away. Their Masai guide, James, grew up nearby and was offered sponsorship, aged nine, by an American family to later attend university in Nairobi. Thirteen years later, he is one of the leading park rangers.

After a short jeep ride, the team arrive at the camp, having seen three of the Big Five en route. Their knowledgeable, friendly ranger fills them in on what to expect for the next couple of days, and what they might hope to see on their epic adventure.

LOCATION: Positioned where the riverine forest meets the sweeping plains, in the path of the awe-inspiring Great Migration, the camp provides an authentic dose of African wildlife, delivered with legendary Kenyan hospitality. It once played a role in the iconic film *Out of Africa*. It is set on a private concession leased from the Masai landlords and has been recently



redesigned to provide spectacular panoramic views across the Masai Mara, offering an unparalleled opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat.

THE CAMP: The luxury tented camp is unrivalled for its size and is one of the largest in the Mara. Laid out along the Sabaringo River, on the edge of the Oloololo escarpment, the suites are elegant and timeless, all with commanding views. There

are 12 Classic tents, 20 Superior tents and eight Superior View tents, laid out in immaculate grounds, with leisurely groups of warthogs (or the 'lawnmowers' as the locals refer to them), feeding right outside the tent doors.

In addition to the suites, the spacious guest areas provide beautiful spaces in which to relax and unwind with the large windows inviting the boundless beauty of the Mara inside, making it feel like an extension of the camp. The restaurant has a well thought out menu based on freshly grown produce and a little taste of Africa.

Guests can enjoy a variety of activities from day and night game drives, early morning hot air balloon rides or bush walks along the river. It's also possible to go and visit the Masai tribe located about 30 minutes' drive away.

Between activities, there's also a chance to escape to the massage room to indulge in a relaxing treatment or take a dip in the swimming pool, from where you can see any passing wildlife.

Next door to Kichwa, andBeyond is currently refurbishing the iconic Bateleur Camp, which is due to be finished in June 2018. Expect to see built-in day beds on private verandas, as well as bathtubs and alfresco showers. Two new swimming pools will be a welcome addition as well as a fitness centre. All refurbishment has been carefully planned to retain the authentic village safari atmosphere, while enhancing its sense of intimacy and luxury.



Large windows and plenty of places to relax



Inside the restaurant



CONSERVATION: andBeyond is committed to expanding and protecting the conservation of the environment. Its guiding ethos of 'Care of the Land, Care of the People and Care of the Wildlife' underlies its aim to leave a positive legacy for generations to come. Its philosophy is of taking less and giving more, whether that's helping to reintroduce an endangered species like the black rhino or providing a market for the local Masai tribe to sell their wares to tourists. They want to minimise their physical footprint to protect the environment and aid breeding programmes. They have also partnered with the Africa Foundation to care for local people.

This is an extraordinary safari experience – beautiful lodges, expert staff and an unrivalled environment.

The team travelled to Kereya with andBeyond and stayed at andBeyond Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp. Prices start from USD\$330pp per night. andbeyond.com



Meeting the Masai



It's all part of the job

SAFARI STYLE

- 1 **Dodo Bar Or** Embroidered dress, £444. mytheresa.com
- 2 **Talitha** Embroidered high-rise shorts, £455. matchesfashion.com
- 3 **Alexander McQueen** Aviator-style mirrored sunglasses, £275. net-a-porter.com
- 4 **Barbour** Chorlton shirt, £199. barbour.com
- 5 **Holland and Holland** Canvas rucksack, £620. hollandandholland.co.uk
- 6 **Louis Vuitton** Wonderland ranger shoes, £1,040. louisvuitton.com
- 7 **Mulberry** Tamara square in dark blush cotton, £195. mulberry.com
- 8 **Bamford** Travel set, £60. bamford.co.uk

