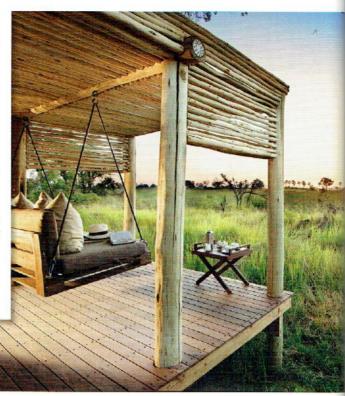


&BEYOND NXABEGA OKAVANGO TENTED CAMP

OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

here is a time and a place for a tent, and Botswana's watery wilderness is it. The just-reopened Nxabega, specifically, is it. This scrumptious bush camp is now lighter and brighter — and while the walls may still be canvas, that's where any similarity to camping ends. Beds are enormous and clad in crisp white linens, and your room peels open for outrageous views over the delta. The new sweeping terraces are just the spot for observing the comings and goings from a swing seat made for two. Or cool off in the swimming pool, watched over by the resident hippo, harrumphing happily in his own pond. You'll hardly need your guide on game drives; wild things pretty much fling themselves in front of you. After cocktails and campfire tales in the lofty-ceilinged main lodge, it's out onto the deck for supper, surrounded by the hum of the bush. BOOK IT Yellow Zebra Safaris (yellowzebrasafaris. com; 020 8547 2305) offers four nights, full board, as part of a seven-night trip, from £4,725, including flights, transfers and safari activities.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

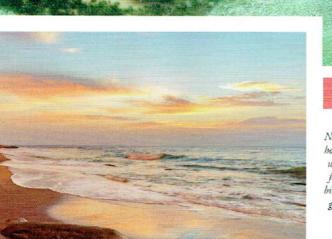
Swish through the reeds and waterlilies on a mokoro-canoe trip, for wildlife watching at hippo's-eye level.





CHENA HUTS YALA NATIONAL PARK, SRI LANKA

t's the dream: a five-star, family-friendly hideaway on the edge of Yala National Park – steps from the crashing surf and rocky outcrops – where peacocks, monkeys, wild boar and the occasional water buffalo vie for their patch of paradise. Chena Huts is the standout in a crop of new eco-lodges in Sri Lanka, with 14 cushy thatched cabins that are perfect for kids (but not tinies). Apart from the flat screens, mammoth baths and private plunge pools, it's the smiley staff that make this place so good for families. The 4.30am wake-up call is brutal (especially for teens) but essential if you want to be in the park for when it opens at dawn. Never mind all the other vehicles (brace yourself: as many as 800 in peak season) - Chena's safari team will find the wildlife. And, yes, we're talking leopard - perhaps even six in a day. After adventures in the bush, dispatch the kids to the jade-coloured pool with its own waterfall, take yourself off to the spa for a Sun Soother Body Wrap and then order a sundowner to see the day out. BOOK IT Scott Dunn (scottdunn. com; 020 8682 5060) offers three nights, as part of an 11-night trip, from £3,250, including flights, transfers and breakfast.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Visit Bundala National Park, one hour away – it's the wintering ground for 200 species of birds, including the greater flamingo.