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TOP TORIES IN CHINESE 'CASH FOR BREXIT' FURORE

Three ex-Cabinet Ministers
targeted by 'Miss Liu' in
Mayfair consultancy sting

By Simon Walters POLITICAL EDITOR

A POLITICAL storm erupted last night over claims that three former Cabinet Ministers secretly tried to earn thousands of pounds in a 'cash for Brexit' scandal.

The senior politicians were lured to a luxury Mayfair office where they were secretly filmed

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PLUS IN

life

OUR STUNNING NEW
LIFESTYLE PULLOUT



Penny
Lancaster

How I tamed
rocker Rod

By **Wendy Gomersall**

IT TOOK two years and 30 filming expeditions for the BBC to capture the amazing images seen in the stunning new series *Big Cats*.

Some wild animals are easier to find than others – you'll have a hard time spotting such fantastic beasts as Pallas's cats, Siberian tigers and Amur leopards. But there are places where lions, tigers, leopards and other felines tolerate our presence at least – and how awesome they all are. The cost of these trips mostly includes flights, transfers, full board, guides, game drives and activities, but check the small print.

BEST FOR LIONS**1 GET UP CLOSE TO THE GIRAFFE KILLERS**

See the giraffe-killer lions from episode one of *Big Cats* in Ruaha National Park, Tanzania. Prides are used to vehicles. Expert Africa's six-day Lesser Kudu Fly-in Safari includes five nights at Mwasusi Camp. From £3,345pp, expertafrica.com, 020 3405 6666.

2 ... OR THOSE WITH MORE OF A TASTE FOR BUFFALO

Alternatively, visit the famously beefy, buffalo-eating Duma lions as featured in *Planet Earth II* in Botswana's magnificent Okavango Delta. Aardvark Safaris offers a six-night trip, with three nights

at Duma Expedition Camp. From £5,290pp, aardvarksafaris.com, 01980 849160.

3 A PRIVATE VIEWING OF STAR CLAWS

Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa is malaria-free and private, so no sharing your lions with dozens of other vehicles. There are black-footed cats, leopards and cheetahs too. Aardvark Safaris has a six-night family safari staying at Morukuru River House, with your own chef. From £3,375pp (four sharing), aardvarksafaris.com.

4 BE CERTAIN OF SEEING THE MANE EVENT

Sightings of lions at the 160,000-acre Sabi Sands, one of South Africa's most famous private reserves, are pretty much guaranteed. Abercrombie & Kent's 15-night Classic South Africa trip includes three nights in a riverside luxury lodge, with everything from fine dining to massages. From £6,780pp, abercrombiekent.co.uk, 01242 386 500.

BEST FOR LEOPARDS**5 STALK YOUR PREY THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY**

Nothing beats tracking big game on foot, at a safe distance, of course. Mountain Kingdoms offers 11-day walking safaris in Luangwa, Zambia's premier wildlife park

renowned for its beautiful leopards. From £5,625pp, mountainkingdoms.com, 01453 844400.

6 WELL SPOTTED! A GREAT WAY TO FIND YOUR QUARRY

Sri Lanka's Yala National Park reputedly has one of the highest leopard densities in the world, so you've a good chance of seeing one. Red Savannah offers a trip with four nights at Chena Huts, which borders

the park, and three at Uga Bay, with flights and B&B. From £2,921pp, redsavannah.com, 01242 787800.

7 IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, THE KILLERS' DARK SIDE

Lengthy, after-dark safaris in the north-east of Borneo give you a chance to see rare leopard cats and clouded leopards. Naturetrek's 13-day trip departs April 2 and encompasses Sepilok, the Kina-

batangan River, the Gomantong Caves and Tabin Wildlife Resort. From £4,495pp, naturetrek.co.uk, 01962 733051.

8 CHILL OUT... WITH THE SNOW LEOPARDS

What wouldn't you give to see a fantastic snow leopard? Head for the remote Ulley Valley in Ladakh, northern India, for a chance to photograph one, escorted by

The 20 best big cat safaris

Gripped by the BBC series? Here are the best places to see the stars for real

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

ALL-INCLUSIVE breaks that will please EVERYONE

For a flexible getaway certain to keep the whole family happy, try a First Choice all-inclusive escape

AS ANY PARENT knows, when it comes to planning happy holidays, it can be hard to please the whole family. However, when you book an all-inclusive break with First Choice, you'll find plenty of fun-packed activities, experiences and exciting entertainment to ensure everyone returns home with a bank of magical memories of their getaway.

With a range of accommodation options around the world, each offering a wealth of choice for guests, First Choice is renowned as the expert in all-inclusive holidays. First Choice holidays offer maximum flexibility and allow holidaymakers the ability to customise them to suit their needs. Says director of product Mark Hall: 'We want to provide the best choice possible, so everyone can find a holiday that fits them, from our own Holiday Villages, offering accommodation, pools and a range of restaurants on site, to adult-only luxury hotels in the Caribbean.'

There's no better time to book an all-inclusive break with First Choice

Flying out of 24 airports in the UK, First Choice offers flexible departures, so, wherever you live, you'll have an accessible getaway. Whether you have just a week at your disposal, ten days or a more indulgent fortnight to escape on holiday, there are options to suit, with flights available midweek or at weekends to fit with your schedule.

And when you arrive in your destination, wherever in the world that is, choice will remain the order of the day. Whether you're in Croatia, the Caribbean or the Costas, there's always something to keep every generation happy. From water slides to aerial adventures and football academies, each resort has a variety of activities and entertainment to cater for different tastes and interests. No two First Choice holidays are the same, so you can choose the right one to suit your family's needs, and know that you'll have plenty to keep you all happy during your stay. Whether you're a frazzled parent who wants to relax by the pool or an energetic child who wants to spend endless hours immersed in activities, there's something for everyone.

So, if you want to flop and drop, you can. If you want to take advantage of a wide range of activities and sports, you can. Try your hand at something new,



Enjoy the perfect flexible holiday with First Choice

As experts in all-inclusive breaks, First Choice has created a range of different styles of getaway to help holidaymakers choose their ideal escape. There are value-focused **SuncoClubs**, offering bags of fun at wallet-friendly prices, **Holiday Villages** designed for energetic children, and **SplashWorld** hotels, with unlimited access to waterparks. And of course, within those different collections of holidays, there's endless choice of destinations, from the Mediterranean and Greece to longer-haul locations such as Thailand or the Caribbean, ensuring your holiday is tailor-made to your tastes, interests and budget. For information and to book, visit firstchoice.co.uk or call 0871 200 4455*.

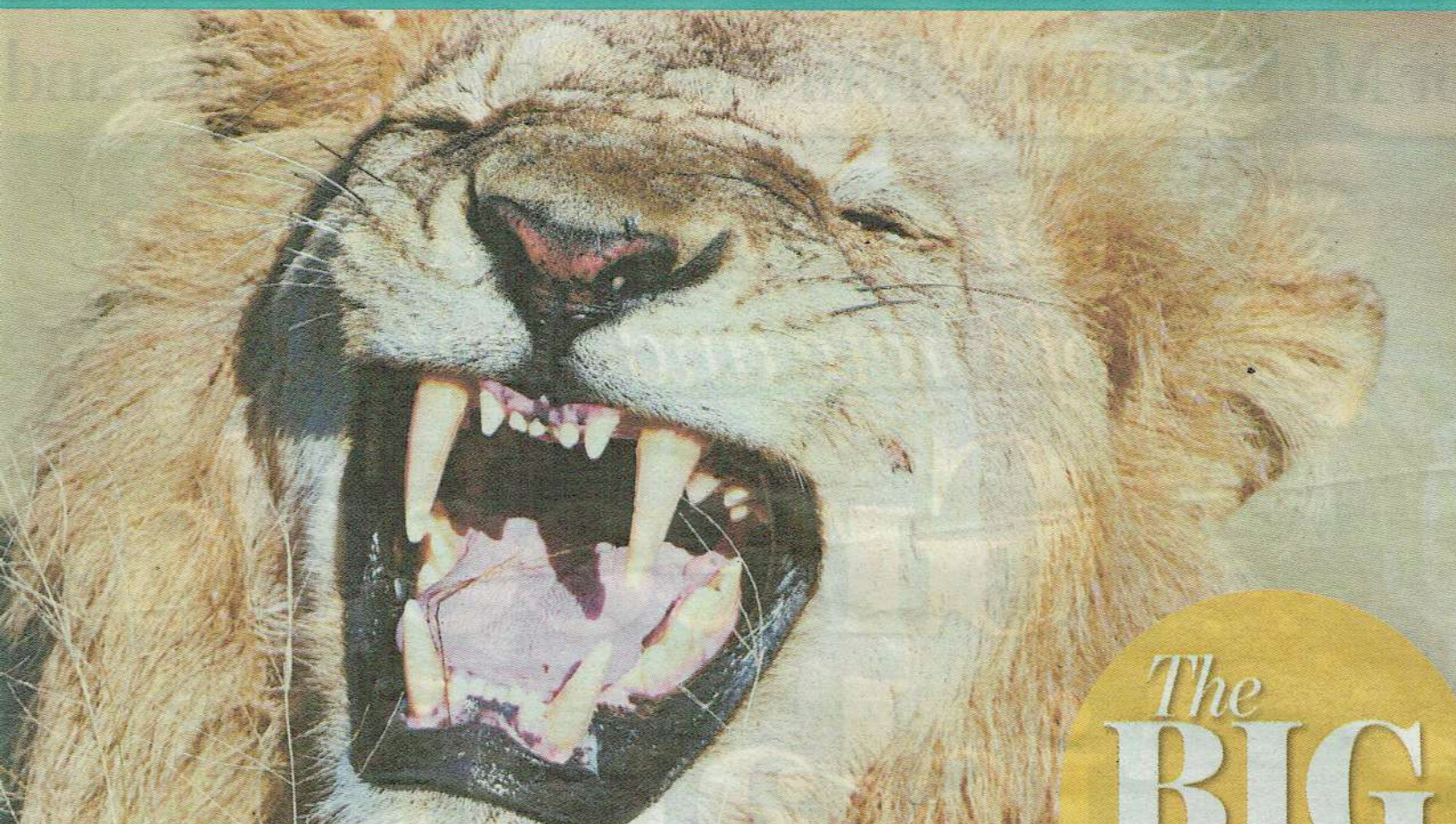
* Calls cost 10p per minute plus your phone company's access charge

or practise your favourite pastimes. If you want to eat at different restaurants during your stay, that's fine, or if you prefer to 'pick your own' at a buffet, that's on the menu, too. And because everything's paid for in advance, if you fancy a drink, an ice cream or some popcorn (nb, check in advance that your hotel offers this), it's all taken care of. No surprises; total flexibility.

Of course, with fluctuating exchange rates, there's no better time to book an all-inclusive break with First Choice, so you can budget for the entire cost of your holiday from the outset. Then, simply pack your bags and head off for fun in the sun with the family.



FIRST CHOICE
THE HOME OF ALL INCLUSIVE



ELUSIVE: A South American margay (18) and the terrace at Chena Huts (6)



experts and photographer Nick Garbutt, on Wildlife Worldwide's 16-night Snow Leopard In Focus trip. From £6,495pp, wildlife-worldwide.com, 01962 302086.

12-day Wild India tour encompasses ten safaris in both parks and Tadoba Andhari Reserve. Other excursions include a trip to Mumbai. From £2,699pp, titan-travel.co.uk, 0800 988 5873.

claim an 89 per cent success rate. There's an Amazon cruise, too, plus tours to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Iguazu Falls. From £4,029pp, tucantravel.com, 020 8896 1600.

BEST FOR TIGERS

9 ALL THIS ROAR POWER – AND THE TAJ MAHAL TOO

The place where I saw most tigers, mostly effortlessly, was Ranthambore in wonderful Rajasthan. Transindus's ten-day Essential India private tour for first-time visitors includes a two-night stop at a wildlife reserve with game drives, as well as visits to the Taj Mahal and Jaipur. From £2,495pp, transindus.com, 020 8566 3739.

10 DRAMA FROM THE PAGES OF THE JUNGLE BOOK

Alternative Indian Bengal tiger-spotting hotspots include Kanha and Pench, which reputedly provided inspiration for Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. Titan's new

BEST FOR JAGUARS

11 FIVE JAGS... AND A 4X4

The brilliant Projeto Onca-fari in Brazil's Pantanal aims to accustomise jaguars to 4WDs, so tourists are likely to spot one – I saw five. Last Frontiers' trip includes four nights at the Caiman Ecological Refuge with jaguar-spotting excursions and an introduction to the project, plus one night in Sao Paulo. From £3,510pp, lastfrontiers.com, 01296 653000.

12 GOING WITH THE BIG CAT FLOW

Tucan Travel's tailor-made 18-day Wildlife Brazil tour includes three nights on a houseboat in the Pantanal and boat trips to see jaguars from the river – they

BEST FOR CHEETAHS

13 ADMIRE SURVIVORS WHO CHEATED DEATH

Namibia is home to Okonjima, a massive private nature reserve with rescued cheetahs you can easily see. It's also home to the AfriCat Foundation big cat charity. Discover The World's 12-day Essential Namibia self-drive itinerary can include a stay here and Etosha National Park for wild cheetah. From £2,208pp, discover-the-world.co.uk, 01737 214291.

14 GAZE AT THE GREAT HUNTERS FROM ON HIGH

Alternatively see them in Kenya on a special private charter safari by air. Scenic Air Safaris' nine-day Endangered Species Safari features an unforgettable flight over the Masai Mara, a renowned cheetah and lion habitat. From £7,100pp (ten guests travelling together), scenicair-safaris.com, 01622 873363.

15 GET THE REAL STORY WITH A RESEARCHER

Treat yourselves to National Geographic Expeditions' and G Adventures' seven-day Explore Kruger National Park trip, which includes going out with a cheetah researcher from the Carnivore Conservation Programme, part of National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative. From £2,074pp (departing April 10), national-geographic-expeditions.co.uk, 0800 440 2551.



PALATIAL: A room at Chena Huts (6) in Yala National Park, Sri Lanka

BEST FOR OTHER RARE CATS

17 EYES PEELED FOR THE BIG-EARED BEAUTIES

Captivating, big-eared servals like the open grassland of the Serengeti and Masai Mara. But, says Rob Slater of Safari Consultants, they also like Botswana, especially in the northern Kwando and Selina areas. From £5,195pp for seven nights, safari-consultants.com, 01787 888590.

18 SPOT AN OCELOT ON YOUR DAWN PATROL

For a slight chance of seeing ocelot and margay, try Costa Rica. Veloso Tours' 14-night Columbus Tour includes three nights in Corcovado National Park, where these not-too-big cats are sometimes spotted at dawn. Keep your eyes peeled during those rainforest hikes. From £3,538pp, veloso.com, 020 8762 0616.

19 WANDER IN THE WORLD OF THE PUMA

Pumas can be spotted at Torres del Paine in Chile in the company of the right guide, though it is usually secondary to the hiking. Veloso Tours' 14-night Yamana Landmark Tour in Chile and Argentina also takes in Patagonia, plus Peninsula Valdes, Buenos Aires and Santiago. From £4,117pp, veloso.com, 020 8762 0616.

20 RUSTY TV STAR IS ONLY FOR THE LUCKY

You may never see the adorable, very elusive rusty spotted cat, star of *Big Cats*, in the fur, but for a tiny chance try Pettitts' tailor-made 15-day Wild Sri Lanka tour. It takes in some of the national parks where they live, including Udawalawe, which has fishing cats and leopards too. From £2,985pp, pettitts.co.uk, 01892 250 925.

The BIG list

BEST FOR LYNXES

16 ON THE TRAIL OF A COMPACT KILLER

The Iberian lynx is extremely rare but Naturetrek reckons eight out of ten groups taking its special six-day wildlife tour in Spain sees one in Coto Donana National Park on a 4WD drive or from a distance in the Sierra Morena. From £1,995pp, naturetrek.co.uk, 01962 733051.

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