



Adventure Travel News - 12/12/2014



By Kraig Becker
Adventure and Outdoor Travel Expert

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On Safari in South Africa. Kraig Becker

Your weekly round-up of the latest news, commentary, and deals from the world of adventure travel.

Travel Experts Predict Rebound in African Travel for 2015

[Travel experts are predicting that 2015 will be a much better year](#) for the travel industry in Africa, after the entire continent suffered for

much of this year. The Ebola crisis in West Africa has had a dramatic impact on Africa, despite the fact that most of the countries that see substantial numbers of foreign visitors are thousands of miles away from the outbreak zone. Tour operators report increased interest in travel bookings for the year ahead however, particularly for those looking to take a walking or photo safari.

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I've said it before, and I'll say it again. Now is a great time to go to Africa. The risk of exposure to Ebola is very small, and there are excellent travel deals to be had simply because so many people are staying away. Book [a safari](#) or [Kilimanjaro climb](#) now, before the crowds return.

Wilderness Safaris Announces Birth of Black Rhino in Botswana

Speaking of Africa, animal lovers, conservationists, and adventure travelers will be happy to hear that [a baby black rhino was born to a female](#), that was part of the [Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project](#). The news came from [Wilderness Safaris](#), a company that organizes trips throughout Botswana, and also plays a crucial role in the Rhino Reintroduction Project. The goal of their efforts is to bring both white and black rhinos back to the [Moremi Game Reserve](#),

where those animals had become effectively extinct. But since 2001, Wilderness Safaris

has worked closely with the [Wilderness Trust](#), and the [Botswana Department of Wildlife](#) to bring the creatures back from the brink. Until now, a single calf was born in the park back in 2009, so it is easy to understand why the arrival of another newborn is exciting news, and cause for celebration. Hopefully, with these conservation efforts, the rhino can be saved in Botswana, and other parts of Africa.

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Extraordinary Journeys Brings Safari Experience "Out of Africa"

Want to go on safari without going to Africa? Then adventure travel company [Extraordinary Journeys](#) may have just the thing for you. The [Out of Africa program](#) is designed to bring the safari experience to others parts of the world – most notably South America and Asia. Some of the destinations where EJ can set up bespoke safari-like experiences include the Salar de

Uyuni in Bolivia, Bandhavgarh National Park in India, and Tierra Patagonia in Torres del Paine National Park, Chile, amongst numerous other destinations. Extraordinary Journeys is well known for putting together luxury excursions that provide access to some of the most alluring natural destinations on the planet, and this new program will only enhance that reputation.

Quark Expeditions Celebrates the 12 Days of Quark-mas

Now that the end of the year is nearly upon us, numerous travel companies are offering specials for the holidays. Amongst them is [Quark Expeditions](#), a company that specializes in Arctic and Antarctic Cruises. Right now, travelers are invited to take part in the [12 Days of Quark-mas](#), during which they can follow Quark on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) with chances to win all kinds of prizes, including DVD's, clothing, and a variety of other items.

Liftopia Launches Christmas and New Year's Day Deals on Lift Tickets

Plan on doing a little skiing over the holidays? Then you'll want to head over to [Liftopia](#) to check the latest deals on lift tickets for your favorite resort. The website, which specializes in great deals on ski passes, is running its annual Christmas & New Year's Day Promotion with discounts of up to 72% for those who plan on hitting the slopes on December 25 or January 1. Can't make it on either of those days? Liftopia can help you save all season long, no matter when you go.

Whale Watching Season Begins in Los Cabos, Mexico

If hitting the slopes isn't your thing, perhaps a whale watching excursion south of the border will fill your need for adventure. Early winter marks the return of the whale pods to [Los Cabos](#), Mexico, as hundreds of the animals migrate to the area, staying until late March. Visitors can take [a Zodiac inflatable boat](#) out into the waters off the coast of Mexico, and enjoy an up close and personal experience with these amazing animals. Other options include [a whale-watching photo safari](#) and [a Sunrider Cruise](#) with a good meal aboard a whale watching boat.

G Adventures is Giving Away a Trip to Australia

Adventure travel company [G Adventures](#) has partnered with Australia's [Northern Territory](#) and [South Australia](#) to give away a terrific trip to either one of those locations. In the [Up High or Down Low](#) challenge, the G Adventures staff will post a photo each day through December 16, and travelers are asked to guess whether or not it is from the Northern Territory (Up High) or South Australia (Down Low). Those who guess correctly will be entered into the contest to win the [Outback to the Great Ocean Road tour](#).

That's all for this week. I'll be back next Friday with more news from the world of adventure travel.

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