



Zimbabwe safari includes a trip on the Elephant Express



Extraordinary Journeys offers safaris that include elephant-watching. (V. Giannella / De Agostini)

By Phil Marty
Chicago Tribune

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Zimbabwe safari rides on Elephant Express

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Here are some of the more interesting deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

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\$549 Caribbean cruise includes 7 nights and port calls in Belize City, Cayman Islands

•Extraordinary Journeys has a nine-night safari package in Zimbabwe that includes a visit to Victoria Falls and three nights each in two lodges within Hwange National Park and three nights in Zambezi National Park. A unique aspect of the trip is that the transfer between the two lodges in Hwange is by the Elephant Express, a single-car open tram that rides on rails. The trip is priced from \$4,000 per person double occupancy. 212-226-7331, www.tinyurl.com/odunbza

Some lodgings in Telluride, Colo., are offering Wednesdays free if you stay two additional midweek nights. Restrictions and blackout dates may apply. 888-605-2578, www.tinyurl.com/p268ddu

If you're looking for a quick Christmas markets fix, CroisiEurope has a solution. The cruise company will have one of its river-cruising ships docked in Strasbourg, France, and it will serve as a hotel for three nights' lodging. During the day there'll be the opportunity to visit markets in Strasbourg and Colmar as well as sample Alsatian wines. Cost is from \$512 per person double occupancy and includes the usual shipboard amenities, including free Wi-Fi. 800-768-7232, www.tinyurl.com/o2qg9jy

ACE Adventure Resort specializes in activities for adrenaline junkies such as whitewater rafting, zip lining, climbing and rappelling, mountain biking and kayaking in the southern hills of West Virginia. 800-787-3982, www.aceraft.com

Virgin America came out on top when Airfarewatchdog.com polled 3,200 people and asked them to name their favorite domestic airline. Virgin garnered 22 percent of the votes. Following were Alaska and JetBlue at 14 percent each; Southwest and Hawaiian at 11 percent each; Allegiant, 9 percent; Frontier, 6 percent; Delta, 5 percent; Spirit, 3 percent; United and American, 2 percent each; and US Airways, 1 percent.

The San Francisco tourism folks have an online guide to the Eastern influence in their city at www.tinyurl.com/q7ft8ko.

The Old Delhi Bazaar Walk and Haveli Visit gives visitors to the Indian city a taste of Old Delhi on foot and by pedicab. www.tinyurl.com/pmjen7g

Upscape specializes in ski, bike and wine tours in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. www.upscapetravel.com

VacationIdea.com lists its picks for unique romantic hotels in Italy at www.tinyurl.com/qz83ew9.

TravelingMom.com offers a free e-book, "101 Family Travel Tips," at www.tinyurl.com/p2u4yr8.

Read FamilyVacationCritic.com's list of 10 best hotels in the U.S. Virgin Islands for families at www.tinyurl.com/pe8278y.

IndependentTraveler.com has a photo quiz to see if you can identify 10 cities worldwide at www.tinyurl.com/np6lbfp.

Prices include taxes and fee unless otherwise noted. Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time, but the listings are not endorsements.

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