





Prime perch: Elewana's Loisaba Tented Camp overlooks a massive conservancy in Kenya.

MARIO MORENO

PITCHED

PERFECT

Suite-like comforts and wild settings: These well-appointed tents call campers of all adventure levels to lace up boots in the great outdoors. **BY ELAINE GLUSAC**

IT'S WELL KNOWN IN COLORADO THAT BLACK BEARS

on the cusp of winter forage far and wide for food. But it wasn't known to my sister and me until a bear visited our spacious tent at Dunton Hot Springs – a stylish affair in the San Juan Mountains with woven rugs, a plush bed, and armchairs by the stove. When the full moon magnified his silhouette across a canvas wall, we bolted for the bathroom. He fled at first shriek, of course, but left a trace – a paw print on the tent – proof that glamping is still camping, in all the best back-to-nature ways.

Nature, a safe and socially distant refuge, has been the balm of the pandemic. Instagram accounts once devoted to rooftop cocktails and luxury suites went full Sierra Club, with images of peopleless sunsets, uncrowded hiking trails, and wildflower-filled plains.

But for those who feel sleeping on hard ground and rustling up campfire fare isn't quite "vacation," outdoors-focused resorts step in to remove the discomforts and handle the chores, freeing guests to revel in the splendor of nature.

As the following illustrate, opportunities come in a variety of climates and cultures – from the African bush to the Australian Outback, tropical beaches to temperate rain forests, desert canyons to snowcapped peaks – collectively linked by love of the land.



WILDLIFE

MOUNTAINS

WATER ACTIVITIES

RAIN FOREST

AFRICA



KENYA

Safari Savior

Set on the 57,000-acre Loisaba Conservancy in Kenya and sustainably managed by The Nature Conservancy as a critical corridor for elephants, **Elewana Loisaba Tented Camp** crowns an escarpment, framing panoramas from the Ewaso Nyiro River valley to

distant Mount Kenya from its 12 tents, as well as its dining tent, terrace, and adjacent infinity pool. Three family units connect two tented bedrooms with a private walkway, and one family suite has its own swimming pool. With three square miles of wilderness per bed in the reserve, this is the place to see rare wild dogs and one of Kenya's most stable lion populations, as well as elephants. Travelers spot wildlife on daily

game drives, while the more adventurous can set out on guided horseback, camelback, mountain bike, and walking safaris. A standout experience: visiting the Loisaba Conservancy headquarters to learn about conservation programs and meet the anti-poaching sniffer dogs, followed by sundowners with canapés. *Tents from \$1,088 per person, including all meals and house drinks, daily game drives, and a guided walking safari.*



SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Isle of Adventure

On the north shore of verdant Príncipe Island, a UNESCO biosphere reserve 130 miles off central Africa's west coast, **Sundy Praia** calls all castaways to 15 one- to three-bedroom tented shorefront villas modeled on traditional wood-paneled fishing huts. Sliding glass doors erase the barriers between indoors, where minibars come stocked with local fruit, and outdoors, where biodiversity thrives. Guests can revel in nature (this so-called African Galápagos has more than 20 endemic bird species) and active pursuits – beach-hopping by boat, showering in rain-forest waterfalls, and summiting a volcanic peak – knowing wine-paired tasting menus await in the bamboo-framed dining room. *Tented villas from \$1,097, including breakfast daily, one 50-minute massage for two, and round-trip airport transfers. VI*



Loisaba Tented Camp's communal deck and (right) Sundy Praia's dining area.



(ELEWANA LOISABA TENTED CAMP) MARIO MORENO