

# THE TIMES



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## The Lust List

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Magazine



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POKLE



Making an entrance Major Peter Middlemiss, adjutant of Sandhurst, riding Coldstream through the academy's doors yesterday to end the Sovereign's Parade for new officers

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See page 50



# Russia threat to Britain

● Officials confirm Moscow waging cyberattacks ● May leads security talks as fears grow over spies

Deborah Haynes Defence Editor

Russia is waging a "campaign" of propaganda and unconventional warfare against Britain, government officials have acknowledged for the first time.

Moscow is behind a concerted drive to undermine the UK through espionage, misinformation, cyberattacks and fake news, senior Whitehall figures believe.

Theresa May will chair a National Security Council session within weeks to examine Russian actions towards

Britain and its allies and discuss possible responses.

It is understood that intelligence officers and senior civil servants from across government expressed concern about the growing scale of the Russian threat during a high-level meeting at the Cabinet Office two months ago.

"There was an agreement on the need to do more across Whitehall to understand and assess and formulate options on how to respond to Russian activities," a source with knowledge of the meeting

said. The operations against Britain are part of a broader drive by Moscow to destabilise the West. US intelligence officials disclosed this week that President Putin was personally involved in a Russian-led hacking campaign during the American election.

Pressure on the West to respond has escalated tensions. President Obama promised retaliation this week against Moscow, saying: "We need to take action and we will at a time and place of our own choosing." Speaking yesterday, he

said to Russia: "Don't do this stuff to us, because we can do this to you."

Concerns have been raised that British institutions and companies have been penetrated by Russian agents, including UK citizens, and last night it emerged that several academics at Cambridge University have stepped down from an intelligence forum over fears of Kremlin influence.

The head of the armed forces has taken the unusual step of calling for

Continued on page 6, col 1





**'Stylish cheap rooms, table football, retro video games — this place is going to be a riot'**

Bridget Harrison on a hip new budget hotel in the Alps



## The cool safari guide to Africa

From a chic camp in Malawi to a mid-back lodge in South Africa, **Sue Watt** picks the best places to book for next year

Prices are per person, per night including drinks and game drives, unless otherwise stated.

### Best for the wildebeest migration

**Nomad's Lamai Serengeti, Tanzania**

From July to October, the northern Serengeti bears witness to about two million animals storming their way to the Mara. When the rowdy guests (along with the tourists), peace

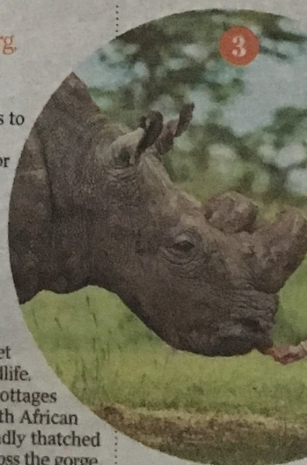
resumes and resident wildlife comes into its own, with predators and plains game easily spotted around the pretty granite kopjes and rivers. Nomad's Lamai Serengeti ([nomad-tanzania.com](http://nomad-tanzania.com)) is perfectly situated for the best of both these worlds. Built among the rocks, its 12 suites are light and airy in shades of cream and calico. There are relaxing lounges, a dining area and swimming pool, with spectacular views across the Mara River.

**Details** From £627pp a night with Expert Africa ([expertafrica.com](http://expertafrica.com))

### 2 Best for riding

**Ant's Hill, the Waterberg, South Africa**

With more than 90 horses ranging from thoroughbreds to children's ponies, Ant's Hill offers safaris in the saddle for all levels, whether you're a first-timer or keen to canter across the plains. On a private reserve in the Waterberg region, it has no lions or elephants but plenty of plains game, giraffes and even rhino. Being on horseback means you can get surprisingly close to the wildlife. Ant's Hill's ([waterberg.net](http://waterberg.net)) cottages are individually designed with African touches and the family-friendly thatched lodge has fabulous views across the gorge.



**Details** From £285pp a night, reduced rates for children, with Bushbaby Travel ([bushbaby.travel](http://bushbaby.travel))

### 3 Best for families

**Ol Pejeta Bush Camp, Laikipia, Kenya**

Ol Pejeta Conservancy is a rare find; it truly embraces children, teaching them about cool conservation in an immersive and inspiring way. In east Africa's largest black rhino sanctuary, youngsters over the age of six can track collared lions with researchers, watch chimpanzees during their noisy feeding frenzy, play hide-and-seek with anti-poaching sniffer dogs and even feed Sudan, the world's last male Northern White



## 18 Travel

rhino. The laid-back, family-friendly Ol Pejeta Bush Camp ([asiliaafrica.com](http://asiliaafrica.com)) has no age limit for children. Its six simply furnished but comfortable en suite tents have private gardens overlooking the Ewaso Nyiro river. Maasai staff will teach children to shoot with bows and arrows. **Details** A night's stay is from US\$400-550pp (£335-£460) with Yellow Zebra Safaris ([yellowzebrasafaris.com](http://yellowzebrasafaris.com)). Conservancy activities cost \$40 and include lion tracking and a trip to the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary

## 4 Best for gorillas

Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, Uganda

Observing rare mountain gorillas in the rainforest is perhaps the ultimate wildlife encounter. You're normally permitted just one hour with these enigmatic apes. However, at Bwindi you can spend an entire morning helping to habituate gorillas as they become familiar with seeing different people. You'll need to be fit — these two groups are more active than those that see tourists daily and might well run you ragged on the hillsides. Recover in Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge ([wildplacesafrica.com](http://wildplacesafrica.com)), Uganda's highest lodge at 2,100m, with butlers, a masseuse and a feelgood factor through its community work.

**Details** \$395-\$610pp a night, excluding transfers and activities, with Natural World Safaris ([naturalworldsafaris.com](http://naturalworldsafaris.com)). Gorilla habituation permits cost \$1,500pp; gorilla tracking permits cost \$600pp

## 5 Best off the beaten track

Meno a Kwenia, Botswana

Meno a Kwenia lies near the remote Makgadikgadi Pans National Park between the Okavango Delta and the arid expanse of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Rarely visited, the region is incredibly rewarding, with a little-known migration of 20,000 zebra, mesmerising landscapes of endless salt pans, fascinating walks with bushmen, and desert wildlife that includes cute meerkats. Meno ([menoakwenia.com](http://menoakwenia.com)) is a quirky camp with nine colourful en suite tents, a pool, a floating hide and bags of character. Overlooking the Boteti River,



it's also a fabulous spot for stargazing. **Details** \$403-\$690pp a night with Expert Africa ([expertafrica.com](http://expertafrica.com))

## 6 Best for guiding

Serian Mara, Mara North Conservancy, Kenya

Nothing contributes more to a successful safari than a knowledgeable, personable guide. Serian allows guests to join its award-winning guides as they brush up on their skills during their annual Pyramids of Life courses, which cover everything from fauna and flora to ancient bushlore and astronomy. One of only 11 camps in the 320sq km Mara North Conservancy bordering the Maasai Mara Reserve, Serian ([serian.com](http://serian.com)) is a beautiful, unpretentious camp with five spacious and elegant tents that each have hardwood flooring, thatched roofs and valley views.

**Details** \$620pp a night (there is a five-night minimum stay during the Pyramids of Life course in March, also available at Serian's Serengeti camp) with Aardvark ([aardvarksafaris.co.uk](http://aardvarksafaris.co.uk))

## 7 Best for design

The Highlands, Ngorongoro, Tanzania

Ngorongoro Crater is spectacular, with about 30,000 animals including the big five — elephants, buffalo, lions, leopards and rhinos — wandering around the dramatic caldera. Most lodges are by the crater rim, which makes it a crowded summer location. But Asilia Africa's camp The Highlands ([asiliaafrica.com](http://asiliaafrica.com)), which opened in August, breaks new ground. Far from other lodges, it lies high on Olmoti Volcano's slopes, just north of Ngorongoro. The eight suites are in geodesic domes inspired



by Maasai bomas (homes), with wood-burning stoves for chilly evenings and windows with Serengeti views. There is easy access to Ngorongoro and hikes around the Olmoti and Elmakaa Craters are also offered. **Details** \$430-895pp a night with Steppes Travel ([steppestravel.co.uk](http://steppestravel.co.uk))

## 8 Best for the great outdoors

Jozibanini, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Jozibanini ([imvelosafarilodges.com](http://imvelosafarilodges.com)) is a remote camp in the southwest corner of Hwange National Park, perfect for savouring that wilderness spirit. Its beauty lies in its simplicity, with only three en suite tents raised on wooden decking and sheltered under camelthorn trees. There's no mess tent; you dine under the stars as the campfire crackles. With the bed rolled out on to your deck, you can sleep under the stars too. Watch the wildlife close-up from a camouflaged



hide by Jozibanini Pan, walk through the woodlands or go mountain biking along elephant trails.

**Details** \$310pp a night for a minimum of two nights with Zambezi Safari & Travel Company ([zambezi.com](http://zambezi.com))

## 9 Best for nostalgia

Angama Mara, Maasai Mara, Kenya

If you long for *Out of Africa* romance and nostalgia, head to Angama Mara; the film was shot on the site of this elegant new lodge. About 300m up on the Rift Valley escarpment, its 30 tented suites are split between two camps with superb Maasai Mara views. Each camp has a vast open-plan guest area, decks for dining and chilling out, and an infinity pool. Stay in South Camp if you want to gaze from the *Out of Africa* kopje where Robert Redford and Meryl Streep posed for the film's famous poster.

**Details** From \$850pp a night, excluding



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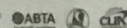
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pink tees, with Aardvark Safaris  
(aardvarksafaris.co.uk)

## 10 Best for elephants

**Mvuu Lodge, Liwonde National Park, Malawi**  
Liwi isn't well-known as a safari destination, but that's about to change with conservation organisation African Parks now running three reserves. Liwonde made headlines this summer when Prince Harry helped out on elephant translocations. Stay at Mvuu Lodge (cawsmw.com), a charming place with a thatched dining room raised above a game-rich lagoon, and eight safari-chic en suite tents. Boat trips along the Shire River are perfect for spotting elephants and for bird watching. **Details** \$365-\$445pp per night, including one per cent Tourism Levy, transfers, and drinks, with Cox & Kings (coxandkings.co.uk)

## 11 Best for wild adventure

**Mboko Camp, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Congo**  
Congo-Brazzaville, often confused with the hostile neighbour the Democratic Republic of Congo, is rarely visited. The rainforests and savannas of Odzala-Kokoua National Park are crying out to be explored. Mboko Camp does adventure with style, offering kayaking and canoeing trips. You might encounter forest western lowland gorillas, forest elephants, forest buffalo, hyena, leopard and chimpanzees. Then share the secrets sipping excellent French coffee at Mboko's chic bar. Mboko Camp (mbokocamp.com) has 12 en suite rooms with thatched shades overlooking a savannah with elephants. **Details** \$650pp a night with Tailor Made Africa (tailormadeafrica.com)

## 12 Best for chimps

**Greystoke Mahale, Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania**  
Mahale is a magical place of forest mountains dropping down to the

sandy shores of turquoise Lake Tanganyika. The hills are home to 1,000 chimpanzees. Having been researched since the 1960s, they're relaxed and easy to see on hikes. Mahale is also home to hippos, birds and fabulous butterflies. The Greystoke Mahale (nomad-tanzania.com) lies on a beach and offers fishing, kayaking, and cruises on a dhow, along with chimp tracking and forest walks. The six thatched rooms are stylishly rustic.

**Details** From £720pp a night, with Safari Consultants (safari-consultants.com)

## 13 Best for local communities

**Somalisa, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe**  
African Bush Camps' award-winning Somalisa (africanbushcamps.com) was rebuilt last year. Its seven tents exude elegant luxury, with colourful fabrics, wood-burning stoves and copper baths. The lounge is brimming with African artefacts and the plunge pool lies next to a water hole visited by elephants. African Bush Camps' Foundation works closely with local communities. **Details** \$420-\$684pp a night, excluding transfers, with Tailor Made Africa (tailormadeafrica.com)

## 14 Best on a budget

**Camp Figtree, Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa**  
A big-five destination, Addo Elephant National Park has the highest density of elephants in the world. Camp Figtree (campfigtree.com) lies just outside the park in the Zuurberg Mountains. A former colonial farmhouse, it has decor that pays homage to its 1920s roots. It is also good value, with options ranging from tented suites to rooms in the farmhouse, including a family suite that sleeps six. Guided tours are available. **Details** From £60pp B&B or £85pp half board a night excluding activities with Expert Africa (expertafrica.com)



## 15 Best for wildlife on your doorstep

**Sanctuary Chief's Camp, Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana**  
On the former hunting grounds of Chief Moremi, this luxurious camp in Moremi Game Reserve is in one of the best wildlife areas in Botswana. Lions, rare wild dogs and leopards are often seen and impalas graze on the floodplains. Elephants sometimes wander right up to the lounge deck. After a revamp Chief (sanctuaryretreats.com) now has 12 capacious safari-chic pavilions in neutral tones, with private dining and plunge pools and another pool overlooking the floodplain, and a spa. **Details** From £947pp for a one-night stay, or £805pp a night for a three or four night stay with Safari Consultants (safari-consultants.com)

## 16 Best for undiscovered Africa

**Ikuka Safari Camp, Ruaha National Park, Tanzania**  
A vast wilderness spanning 22,000 sq km, Tanzania's largest park is home to one tenth of the continent's lions, east Africa's largest population of elephants, rare packs of wild dogs and more than 500 species of birds. Stay at a new luxury camp, Ikuka (ikukasafaricamp.com), with six gorgeous tented suites open to the elements, all lying on the Mwagusi escarpment overlooking the Ruaha Valley. The lounge has fabulous views. **Details** From \$450pp a night, excluding park fees, with Scott Dunn (scottdunn.com)

## 17 Best for walking

**Mwaleshi, North Luangwa National Park, Zambia**  
North Luangwa is smaller, wilder and more remote than its better known big sister South Luangwa, where walking safaris originated in the 1960s under the leadership of the renowned conservationist Norman Carr. As you

stroll, your senses go into overdrive — you see, smell, hear and touch so much more than you do on a game drive. Simple and rustic but very comfortable, Mwaleshi Camp is what walking in the bush is all about, oozing that exhilarating "back-to-nature" feel on the banks of the Mwaleshi River. The camp's four reed and thatched chalets have bright, locally designed fabrics.

**Details** From £590pp a night with Natural World Safaris (naturalworldsafaris.com)

## 18 Best for wildlife conservation

**Okonjima Bush Camp, Central Highlands, Namibia**

This private reserve is home to the Africat Foundation, a sanctuary for rescued cheetahs, leopards and wild dogs. Leopards can be tracked from vehicles, and cheetahs, wild dogs and hyenas can be seen on foot. Okonjima works closely with local farmers on conservation projects. Renovated last year, Okonjima Bush Camp (okonjima.com) has eight luxury chalets and a honeymoon suite built of stone, canvas and glass with thatched roofs. The dining room serves fabulous meals. **Details** From £310pp a night with Steppes Travel (steppestravel.co.uk)

## 19 Best for luxury

**Singita Lebombo, Kruger National Park, South Africa**  
Lebombo Lodge (singita.com) lies in the mountains above N'wantetsi River, within Singita's private area in Kruger National Park. It reopened in July after refurbishment and its 17 elegant suites are made of glass and wood with neutral shades. There's a spa, a 25m lap pool and mountain bikes. The food is overseen by chef of the moment Liam Tomlin, from Chef's Warehouse in Cape Town. There is abundant wildlife, including the big five and a mountain pride of lions. **Details** From \$1,568pp a night with Cox & Kings (coxandkings.co.uk)

## 20 Best for desert elephants

**Mowani Mountain Camp, Twyfelfontein, Namibia**  
In shades of vivid ochre, rust and gold, Namibia's deserts are stunning. See springboks, jackals and oryx surviving in their harsh, arid environment. However, the rare desert-adapted elephants are the stars here and game drives to see them are unmissable, as are trips to see Twyfelfontein's extraordinary ancient rock art. Mowani (mowani.com) has 15 suites scattered around the boulders, their russet tones and thatched roofs blending in perfectly. **Details** From £140pp a night dinner, B&B with Zambezi Safari and Travel Company (zambezi.com). Activities such as elephant and dune drives, trips to Twyfelfontein and forest walks are extra

