There’s a world just waiting to be discovered...
My fellow friends,

Never have I counted myself as fortunate as I do today, even amongst the gloomy outlook of an uncertain economy. The passion for travel is still alive and burning, inspiring the wandering hearts of explorers and adventurers around the world. It is with humble gratitude that I am pleased to bring you this issue of Ker & Downey magazine, filled with treasured stories of people and places, unlikely beginnings, and rarest encounters. Learn about the world’s most popular traveling destinations like Turkey, a modern European civilization driven by the heartbeat of a rich ancient history and old Asian persuasions; or discover the fulfillment in giving back through Ker & Downey philanthropy, a means to make a positive impact on the world and in the lives of people who need it. Throughout the issue you’ll also be privy to some of our greatest offers, discounted rates, and award-winning itineraries.

May this special issue be one of the small ways we can say “thank you,” for your continued dedication in seeing the world we know and love so much.

With fondest regards,

David Marek

Ker & Downey was awarded “Best Adventure Travel Company on Earth” for the luxury category by National Geographic Adventure Magazine in 2009.

National Geographic Traveler also counted Ker & Downey’s “Australian Dreamtime,” “Namibia Explorer,” and “Splendors of the Cape,” among their prestigious Top 50 Tours of a Lifetime.

Our stunning ‘Tribes of the Amazon’ journey was selected as “Trip of the Year” to South America for Outside Magazine.

Ker & Downey was also selected as one of Luxury Link’s “World’s Best Tour Companies”
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ON THE COVER:
Seaside Vista at Birkenhead House in Hermanus. This is one of three featured properties in Liz Biden’s Royal Portfolio as seen on page 8

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In an effort to respond to the growing need for elephant conservation efforts in South Africa, Ker & Downey has partnered with the Mashatu Research team to provide satellite collars to track the movement of these animals in their habitat. A special conservation journey, \textit{Encounter the Elephants} (priced from $16,560), gives Ker & Downey participants an inside look at this recent research effort, as well as a hands-on experience in the unique collaring process itself. During the journey, guests will travel with the Mashatu Research team on specialized 4x4’s, learning more about movement patterns, how to locate the elephant population within the reserve, as well as the techniques of dart immobilization and the effect on an elephant.

Once an elephant has been immobilized, all Ker & Downey participants will be given the exclusive chance to join the Mashatu Research team in taking measurements, taking any blood samples that may be necessary, as well as helping the scientists affix the satellite collar to the elephant. As part of this experience, guests will be given special access to a map...
OF ELEPHANTS

AT THE JOINING OF THE LIMPOPO AND SHASHE RIVERS, THERE IS A HERD OF ELEPHANTS IN DIRE NEED OF SAVING. AS OF LATE, AN INCREASING HUMAN POPULATION HAS DECREASED SPACE FOR A GROWING ELEPHANT POPULATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ELEPHANT HABITATS HAVE SLOWLY DISAPPEARED OR HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY DAMAGED, ENDING THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS ELEPHANTS ALONG THE WAY. AND STILL MORE QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN ON WHETHER AN INCREASE IN ELEPHANT NUMBERS WILL LEAD TO THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF A PRECIOUS WILDLIFE AREA.

showing the daily movements of the specific elephant as well as monthly updates on the research project.

The journey also includes a stop at Chobe National Park, home to the largest congregation of elephants, as well as the Okavango Delta. Ker & Downey guests will have yet another rare opportunity as three orphaned elephants and several guides demonstrate elephant living habits, including how they look for food, how they strip the leaves off tree trunks, and how they bath in the lagoons of the Delta.

In exchange for this unique opportunity, $5,000 of the total cost of an itinerary will be donated to the Mashatu Research team and the cost of the satellite collar. This experience is a life-changing moment, where you will be face to face with an elephant in a rare, close-proximity environment. You will have a hands-on, positive impact in the lives of these elephants as you volunteer to give back in an effort to join this much-needed conservation effort.

To learn more about how you can join Ker & Downey in the conservation of the elephants, visit our website at kerdowney.com.
THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME
Liz Biden was not a hotelier. She was working in the fashion industry when turning her summer home into a luxury getaway changed her life.

Liz Biden is someone who understands that there’s just nothing quite like the comfort of being at home. The seclusion, the privacy, the quiet; a home is often the ultimate sanctuary from life’s familiar course. Realizing the captivating feeling a home can inspire, Liz Biden has grabbed the attention of the luxury travel industry by opening her opulent homes as private escapes to welcome South African adventurers.

In the late nineties, Liz and her husband Phil sold their shares of Jenni Button and left the South African fashion industry to turn one of their holiday homes into their first hotel, Royal Malewane.

“It was a fit of madness,” recalls Liz. “I didn’t know anything about how to create or run hotels.” And yet, since January of 2000, Liz Biden and this bushveld hideaway have experienced fabulous recognition with awards like “Top 101 Best Spas in the World” from Tatler Spa Guide, a “Best Destinations” award from Forbes Magazine, and was even ranked “Top 57 Hot Spots in the World” by Conde Nast Traveler.

With so much confidence from Royal Malewane, Liz promptly turned her beach house into her second hotel, Birkenhead House, and her wine farm into her third hotel, La Residence. Similar to Royal Malewane, both of these hotels have also received incredible reviews including Birkenhead’s appearance on Conde Nast.

continued on page 10
Traveler’s Hotlist in 2003 and La Residence’s recent “Hideaway of the Year” award from Andrew Harpers Hideaway Report in 2009.

Each of the Royal Portfolio properties is known for its own individual identity. Liz has stayed away from joining group hotels and has spent a large amount of time in the unique and eclectic decor of her homes. “I have traveled all over the world and so I put together all the things that I have loved and enjoyed in other places,” says Liz.

Liz’s Birkenhead House is a rare sight, seated on the cliffs of Hermanus overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. A unique collection of inspired artwork, elegant chandeliers, and ocean view vistas are just a few of the marvels at this waterfront property. Her wine estate, La Residence, is known for its spectacular Tuscany villa feel, with ornate mirrors, lighting, artworks, and dressers. Set in the beautiful Franschhoek Valley, La Residence offers mountain vineyard vistas and nothing short of spectacular mountain views, beautiful sunsets, and estate-like grandeur. The exquisite Royal Malewane getaway lies among the untamed African bush and offers the sophistication and elegance of rich deckwood, Ralph-Lauren linens, and spillway pool waters. As there are only six suites at Royal Malewane, these luxurious accommodations also offer incomparable solitude. Not to mention, Liz has one of only two scouts in the country on her staff, along with the only working master tracker, who help guests to find some of the most spectacular wildlife in South Africa. With her latest addition at Royal Malewane, Africa House, she even went as far as to send back a container of 20 tables, windows, and even carved teak beds from Mombasa and Lamu. “When I see fabulous pieces, I buy them and we build the place around them.”

Liz has loved every minute of her role in creating the Royal Portfolio. “It has been such a joy to pour my heart into them and it has been even more rewarding to see the wonderful customers enjoy them so much.”

To experience the world-class hospitality of the Royal Portfolio hotels in Ker & Downey style, call one of our travel professionals at 866.423.4236 or visit our website for more information at www.kerdowney.com.
STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

National Geographic Adventure magazine’s February 2009 issue names Ker & Downey as one of the “Best Luxury Adventure Travel Companies on Earth,” for its exceptional customer satisfaction as well as service, education and sustainability.

The magazine goes on to recommend a prior National Geographic award-winning itinerary offered exclusively by Ker & Downey, the luxurious adventure journey, “Splendors of the Cape: Whales, Walking, Wilderness & Wildlife”. This quintessential South African eco-journey explores all of the major biomes using all 5 star boutique hotel properties or lodges such as Samara Private Game Reserve, Shamwari Private Reserve and Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, just to name a few. Each property has been duly recognized for its devotion to the conservation of flora, fauna and wildlife. This 15 day itinerary explores Cape Town and District Six, the Cape Coast and the Garden Route, the Karoo desert biome and the Western Cape.

The National Geographic Adventure Award is the second award to Ker & Downey in as many years. The mission of the company is to achieve excellence in luxury travel by creating flawlessly executed, custom designed itineraries that exceed the expectations of the clients.

For more information on how you can take an award winning journey with Ker & Downey, contact us at 800.423.4236 to speak with a travel expert. To learn more about Ker & Downey, visit www.kerdowney.com.
Gorilla trekking in Uganda has long been considered a highlight for most people visiting the country, and with good reason. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is home to roughly half of the world’s remaining mountain gorillas, about 350 of them. The verdant maze of trees and vines of this national park provides a perfect home for these gentle giants, and an adventure in Uganda unlike any other.

Our day started at 8am. Crawling out of my comfortable, full-size bed at Gorilla Forest Camp I could see the sun over the tree-covered rise and fall of the Albertine Rift Valley at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. We had a meeting with the Warden about the background of gorilla trekking, the way to behave in the forest, things we would see, and a short video on the gorillas themselves and the habituation experience.

After this quick briefing, eight of us set out with a guide and two armed Bwindi rangers, since this is the maximum number of visitors allowed to minimize disturbances and risk of human-borne diseases. We trekked for a good while, over the hills, in and around the thickness of the forest which seemed to be never ending. It was obvious to me why this was such a great home for mountain gorillas.

Several hours into our trek, we finally came upon a gorilla group and our guides instructed us to keep our voices low. The magnificence of these animals was astounding. I marveled at adult and baby gorillas alike, as they climbed the trees, sat on the ground in human-like positions, and snacked on the nearby vegetation and banana trees.

We kept a minimum of twenty one feet from the gorillas as instructed, never looking them in the eye. We were allowed one mesmerizing hour with these forest mammals, taking as many non-flash pictures as we could.

All in all, I never thought I could do it, but I did. The gorilla trekking adventure was something I would always do again. It is the anticipation, adventure and most of all, the challenge to get to see the gorillas that make this experience unforgettable.

Trek for yourself the incredible terrain at Bwindi National Park on Ker & Downey’s Pearl of Africa itinerary. Call 800.423.4236 or visit kerdowney.com for more information.
BHUTAN

A country nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, Bhutan is a cultural goldmine visited by many saints, scholars, mystics, and pilgrims from all over the world to gain personal fulfillment and to see the legacies of Bhutan for themselves. Steeped in a history of Buddhism and simple, peaceful living, Bhutan offers a grand story of South Asian ways of life. Its solitude in the remote reaches of the Himalayas has attracted many on their own journeys for wisdom, enlightenment, and peace. Travel to this fascinating region with Ker & Downey, and experience your own search for truth and beauty among the cultural heritage and tranquil atmosphere of the country of Bhutan, the “Land of the Thunder Dragon”.

TURKEY

The Republic of Turkey is where ancient history comes to life. Explore Turkey from her past to her present with Ker & Downey and explore every nuance of this nation, where a blending of ancient religions, trade, and political power has shaped many of the world’s modern cultures of today. But remember, no journey to Turkey is complete without first exploring Istanbul, the modern capital of Turkey as well as the ancient capital of the Ottoman Empire. A city that is determined to protect its ancient past,

OMAN

A culturally rich nation with ancient traditions, Oman is a traveler’s delight. The legacy that has been passed from generation to generation, the art, the culture, the folklore, and the craftsmanship have to be seen. But, there is much more in the heart of Oman to explore: the sense of respect for time, for people, and for nature. Come and sample a part of Oman’s rich heritage, kept alive and unchanged for generations. There are regions in Oman that few have ever visited yet are waiting to be discovered by you. Oman is truly a secret oasis of unforgettable adventures, ultimate privacy, and luxurious hideaways.
Here's news that will put you to sleep.

Premium Business to South America. 100% horizontal, full flat. Only from LAN.
AN AMAZONIAN SAFARI

The Pristine Pacaya Samiria Reserve on the Peruvian Amazon offers African-like safari adventure.
Far away from the overcrowded and over-commercialized waters of the Brazilian Amazon is the tranquil ebb and flow of the narrow, black water Amazon in the Pacaya Samiria Reserve of Northern Peru. A hushed and hidden land of mirrored forests, lily-covered waterways, and exotic jungle creatures, the Peruvian Amazon is a hidden treasure and well kept secret. The width of this narrow corridor has turned adventure vessels, explorers, and countless tourists away in years past, keeping its pristine condition and indigenous cultures safe from group tourism and Westernization.

There are a select few who have heard the Peruvian Amazon tell its story and an even more discriminating number who have heard it told the way it was intended, aboard the luxurious and adventurous, MV Aqua. In keeping with the theme of being miles away from an ordinary Amazon experience, Francesco Galli Zugaro has also made it a point in to incorporate an incredibly high-end cuisine experience aboard the MV Aqua. Famous Peruvian chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, who owns the renown Malabar Restaurant, now serves delicate Peruvian fare and fine South American wines aboard the Aqua.

An inside look beyond the architecturally beautiful exterior reveals 12 luxury suites, richly appointed in modern sophistication with black slate accent walls, dark wooden flooring, enormous bay windows, and king-sized beds. Each suite is also equipped with its own air conditioning unit, elegant bathrooms, and a spacious shower. But not only does the accommodation and cuisine of this cruise put it in a category by itself, the wildlife

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and cultural adventures have served to distinguish the MV Aqua from ordinary Amazon floats.

Typically, an expedition begins with a long flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil, taking you much further south than necessary; then another long flight takes you back up to Manaus to arrive at the Amazon only to find an over-run waterfront with large commercial vessels and noisy group tours. Not to mention, once you actually begin, your wildlife viewing is usually from far away, restricted by the size of your vessel and the number of passengers it’s carrying. However, at Aqua Expeditions, this was the first perception Francesco Galli Zugaro and his crew wanted to change.

"Think of the Amazon as a water safari, and the MV Aqua is the Amazon in style." With the cruise serving as a luxurious floating “base camp,” passengers are able to choose between 3, 4, and 7 night expeditions and up to an expansive 650 miles down the Amazon. Passengers are comfortably seated into spacious skiffs, or in African safari terms, “floating game vehicles,” and are motored out to the waters edge and beyond to explore the wildlife firsthand and even the hidden villages of this remote area.

The vast Pacaya Samiria Reserve only adds to the safari effect as it resembles the famous Okavango Delta of Botswana. A great collage of the endangered pink Amazon dolphins, grey dolphins, three-toed sloth, Dusky Titi Monkey, zebra fish, eels, and countless other creatures make various appearances as you weave in and out of the black water mirrored forests, canals, and waterways of the reserve.

“The great thing about your base camp is that it moves with you,” says Galli Zugaro. On a typical African safari, you are restricted by how far you can drive or walk, allowing you only a glimpse into the environment around

Aboard the Aqua and its skiffs however, you can cover over 10 times the average safari experience and see a much broader array of wildlife in a variety of habitats.

The range of activities aboard the Aqua is also just as impressive. Depending on when you travel, you can choose between black water lagoon visits, village visits on Amazonian islands, piranha fishing, and night excursions.

For more information on how to discover the Peruvian Amazon, please call us at 800.423.4236 or visit www.kerdowney.com

"I wanted guests to feel and enjoy the luxury experience of a boutique hotel..."

-Francesco Galli Zugaro-
Aqua Expeditions
Step into a world an ancient realm of luxury and elegance like never before with Ker & Downey’s amazing Royal India (from $8,476). This 13 day journey will take you from the British-Colonial architecture of Delhi, to the ancient forts and villages of Rajasthan, to the world-renowned Taj Mahal in Agra. Stay at the stunning Rambagh Palace and Oberoi Amarvillas, where breathtaking scenery and white glove service await. Only with Ker & Downey is luxury travel like this possible.
MODERN DAY TALES
OF ANCIENT
TURKEY
AT THE INTERSECTION OF EUROPE AND ASIA LIES A COUNTRY APPROPRIATELY KNOWN FOR ITS BLENDED HISTORY, A SYNTHESIS OF MODERN MARVEL AND OLD-WORLD ORIGINS. THIS HISTORY OF TURKEY IS AS OLD AS MANKIND ITSELF. PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS ANATOLIA, OR EVEN MORE PREVIOUSLY AS ASIA MINOR, THIS MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY HAS WITNESSED THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES AND CONQUERORS ALIKE, FROM THE EARLY HITTITES TO THE GREEK, ROMAN, AND OTTOMAN REGIMES. AND YET EACH OF THESE CULTURES HAVE LEFT THEIR OWN UNIQUE MARK ON THIS LAND, OPENING WIDE THE DOOR FOR THE LATER EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY OF THEIR BYGONE LEGACIES.

Ker & Downey’s Tales of Turkey (priced from $9,817) celebrates the two-fold nature of this unique location in its five stops throughout the country. Sites along the way include a trip to Istanbul, where you can experience the rhythm of a modern Mediterranean culture without missing the excitement of exploring ancient ruins. Witness the history at the Hagia Sophia, where there is a unique coexistence of Christian and Muslim influence. “It is absolutely inspiring to see those golden mosaics and frescoes depicting Christ, Mary, and the Apostles, released free from the plasters by archeologists who have done a great job,” says Turkish partner Abdullah Gur.

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At Cappadocia, Ker & Downey guests will get an inside look at the famous rock-cut churches, full of frescoes and paintings dating from the tenth through thirteenth centuries. These marvelous formations tower over the Cappadocian hills in clusters, making for an almost lunar-like landscape. Photography lovers will enjoy a climb atop Uchisar Rock Castle, where stunning panoramic views of the Cappadocian valleys await for breathtaking captures. If that just won’t do it, Ker & Downey guests can even arrange a private hot air balloon adventure, overlooking the sweeping hillsides and valleys of this region.

Ephesus, Pammukale, and Laodicea are other city sites on Ker & Downey’s Tales of Turkey, where guests can visit House of the Virgin Mary, a popular pilgrimage site that is believed to have been the last home of Mary, mother of Jesus, or choose to soak up the sun and Mediterranean culture at Pammukale in the cool waters of natural springs.

One day of the journey has been set aside for a relaxing gulet cruise out into the Bodrum peninsula. Bodrum is host to a real treasure chest of coves, inlets, cities by the bay, and sun-soaked beaches, adding to the Mediterranean lifestyle that has become so prevalent over the years. Ker & Downey guests can enjoy utter privacy among the warm, turquoise waters, visiting ancient sites and stopping for water adventures along the way. A relaxing morning swim, a spot of snorkeling beside rocky shores, an adventurous turn windsurfing, or a short kayak expedition to a hidden inlet are only a few of the sublime activities available. As Abdullah puts it, “One of the defining characteristics of a gulet trip is the ‘back to nature’ appreciation of the simple things: the fresh salty air, the canopy of the stars at night…it’s one long list of heavenly pleasures.”

Contact our Turkish experts at 800.423.4236 to plan your very own Journey of Distinction to Turkey.
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Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Lie-flat Business Class seats with multi-zone massage.
Remarkable legroom. And over 1,200 channels of entertainment on demand. Now flying to over 100 destinations worldwide. Discover more at emirates.com/usa.

over 400 international awards and over 100 destinations worldwide. For more details contact Emirates at 800-777-3999. Discover frequent flyer benefits at skywards.com.
VALLEY OF THE QUEENS

Nefertari’s Tomb:

The dream has come true and the restoration works of Nefertari’s tomb, the most famous of all queens, has been achieved. This tomb has been a symbol of challenge. Since its discovery at the beginning of this century in 1904 by the Italian archaeologist Schiaparelli, it endured bad circumstances, and all rescue efforts were insufficient & hard to be carried out, but, there is will, there is way. Having restored the tomb, Ker & Downey guests now have the opportunity to be a rare few allowed to visit the site of Nefertari’s tomb.
Written in the sand and rock lie the age-old stories of cultures past, all choosing this spot to leave their mark in search of legacy with the greats. The facade of ruin that shows from monuments, tombs, and ancient temples belies the vibrant life beneath, an adventure waiting to be had.
UPPER EGYPT

Abu Simbel:
This is the site of two giant temples built at the southern border, more than three thousand years ago by King Ramses II. After building his own temple, Ramses then built the second one for his wife, Queen Nefertari. The temples were moved in 1960 to their current position, when it became obvious that they could be lost to the waters of Lake Nasser. Through the efforts of the UNESCO and worldwide concern, the temples were sawn in huge blocks and rebuilt on a higher position, saving them from the water of the lake. One of the most amazing things about Abu Simbel is that twice a year, the rays of the sun enter through the corridors of the Great Temple and light the faces of the God’s in the sanctuary. This is an indescribable event that attracts thousands of people every year.

CAIRO

Egyptian Museum:
Home to the largest collection of ancient Egyptian art anywhere in the world, the Egyptian museum is a historic maze of artifacts, gilded masks, decorated tombs, solid gold coffins, and exquisite jewelry. The museum is home to over 120,000 objects, including the remnants from the fabled tombs of Tutankhamen and Ramses. By day, the museum is packed full of tourists and historians perusing the great halls; however, Ker & Downey guests have the exclusive privilege of meandering the museum after hours, with a private Egyptologist in complete solitude.

LUXOR

Karnak:
The Karnak Temple complex is a vast open-air museum and the largest temple site in all of Egypt. It consists of four main parts (precincts), however its main attraction is that of the Temple of Amun-Ra, the Egyptian sun-god. This site is a great place to simply relax and enjoy a historic stroll down the avenues and walkways of Karnak, decorated with human and ram-headed sphinxes, along with incredible stories told by the intricate markings on the columns.

CAIRO

The Sphinx Complex:
The sphinx is one of the main landmarks of this country of vast deserts and the great River Nile. The concept of the sphinx first originated in Egypt and later spread to other parts of the world. The Greek version of the sphinx is a female monster with a feminine face, breasts, wings and a tail. According to ancient Egyptian mythology, the sphinx was a creature with a human head and the body of a lion. But sphinxes with the head of a ram, falcon and hawk are also seen in the country. Most of them are depicted as male, but there are a few exceptions. The sphinx was considered to be the guardian of royal tombs or temples by the ancient Egyptians and therefore placed in the vicinity of these structures. The face of a sphinx usually portrays a pharaoh, as he is supposed to be an incarnation of the sun god.
LUXOR

Seti’s Tomb:

The tomb of Seti I (Sethos I) is the longest (at more then 120 meters), deepest and most completely finished in the Valley of the Kings. It also represents the fullest development of offset, or jogged royal tombs in the valley. Seti I’s reign is known for high achievements in art and culture, and his tomb was one of the hallmarks of his building projects, with highly refined bas-reliefs and colorful paintings. The decorations are more refined than in earlier tombs, with figures having larger ears and smaller mouths. This tomb marks the first time that decorations cover every passage and chamber. The decorative style established in this tomb is followed fully or in part by every succeeding tomb through the rest of the valley’s history.

CAIRO

The Giza Plateau:

When you think of Egypt, the first thing that comes to the mind are the Giza Pyramids. These three majestic structures, Cheops, Chephren & Mycerinos, are the oldest & the only of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient world still intact. Guarding the whole Necropolis of Giza is the famous Great Sphinx, whose face is that of King Chephren, coupled with the body of a Lion as a symbol of power. The Plateau is an unbelievable site from which to see Cairo. But the best way to take in the splendor of Giza and its pyramids is by camel-back, an activity available by visiting Giza with Ker & Downey.

DEIR EL MEDINA

The Worker’s Village:

The Worker’s Village at Deir el Medina is one of the most thoroughly documented communities in the ancient world. The village is in the southern part of the Theban necropolis in a valley behind Gurnet Murai hill. Workmen and their families left a record of village life that spans almost four hundred years and parallels much of the history of the New Kingdom dynasty. Surviving records shed little light on the major events, but rather the talk of everyday life - work, money, people, education, legal and religious matters.

LUXOR

Valley of the Kings:

In the west bank of the Nile, across from Thebes (known as Luxor today) is the resting place of the greatest pharaohs of Egypt in the Valley of the Kings. For nearly 500 years, from the 16th to 11th century BC, tombs were constructed here for the kings and powerful nobles of Egypt. With the 2005 discovery of a new chamber and the 2008 discovery of 2 further tomb entrances, the Valley of Kings is known to contain 63 tombs and chambers, varying in size from a simple pit to complex tomb systems. Ker & Downey guests at the Valley of Kings will explore like Indiana Jones these intricate burial grounds, and can even visit the mummy of the golden pharaoh Tutankhamun, the only Royal tomb still in its original location.

SAKKARA

The Step Pyramid:

The Step Pyramid complex represents a milestone in the evolution of monumental stone architecture, both in Egypt and in the world as a whole. It marked the beginning of an evolutionary period that would eventually see the polished, smooth faced true pyramids of the Giza by the 4th Dynasty master builders. According to tradition, it was built for King Djoser, a major ruler of Egypt’s 3rd Dynasty, by Imhotep, Egypt’s most famous architect. Learn about the other amazing sites to see while visiting Egypt with Ker & Downey by visiting our website at kerdowney.com or by contacting our Egypt experts at 800.423.4236.

Learn about the other amazing sites to see while visiting Egypt with Ker & Downey by visiting our website at kerdowney.com or by contacting our Egypt experts at 800.423.4236.
“FLYING ALONG THE STARK SKELETON COAST OR OVER THE RED DUNE SEA OF SOSSUSVLEI CANNOT REALLY BE DESCRIBED IN WORDS...”

-Martin Benadie-
Wilderness Safaris
THE ARID LAND OF NAMIBIA, A FORGOTTEN COUNTRY WHEN IT COMES TO SAFARI, HAS EMERGED FROM OBLIVION INTO THE FOREFRONT OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL, CATCHING THE EYES OF EXPLORERS, CULTURALISTS, AND LUXURY TRAVELERS ALONG THE WAY. TAKE AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY WITH KER & DOWNEY TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS MADE IT SO POPULAR.

The country of Namibia, named after the vast Namib desert (the oldest on the planet), is celebrated for its wide open landscapes - a perfect place to breathe deeply while taking in the infinite supply of blue skies, sun-drenched weather, and cool starry nights. The diversity of nature, from red sand dunes to blue ocean water, creates an interesting juxtaposition as it surrounds the outlying cities. National parks and game reserves only add to the collage of wildlife as giraffes saunter across the white Etosha Pan, gemsbok traverse up and down the dunes of Sossuvlei, and seals congregate on the western shores at Skeleton Coast.

Ker & Downey’s Discover Namibia is a great way to explore it all. With plenty of activity from safari to relaxation, this journey encompasses wildlife, beautiful landscapes, preserved culture, and ultimate style.

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TOP PLACES TO STAY IN NAMIBIA

KULALA DESERT LODGE

Rest under the stars in these private “kulalas” that offer incredible views of the majestic Sossusvlei dunes from a private verandah.

DAMARALAND CAMP

Try clear-skies star gazing at these traditional safari cottages in one of the best wilderness areas in all of Namibia.

ONGAVA LODGE

Overlook the salt pans and the gathering wildlife from these rock and thatch chalets that sit atop the foothills of Etosha.

SKELETON COAST CAMP

Six Meru-style tents and open air dining from which you can tour the shipwrecks and skeletons that lie along the Atlantic coast.

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The Namibian adventure includes trips to Sossusvlei, Damaraland, Skeleton Coast, and the great white Etosha Pan.

Home to the impressive red sand dunes and the Namib Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei is a major stop for photographers and climbers. “The geography of the place is simply astounding,” says Ker & Downey vice president David Jones. Ballooning is one of the best ways guests can take in the expanse of the dunes.

Damaraland lies in the northwestern region of Namibia, folded in by mountain ranges and cut through by rivers, including the northern Kuene. Gravel plains are home to Hartmann’s mountain zebra, giraffe, and black rhino where safari drives are popular activities. Skeleton Coast, just west, is known for its scattered remains of shipwrecks and thousands of Cape fur seals. This beautifully desolate region can be seen by taking drives in and out of its windswept plains, towering canyons, and wide salt pans.

Etosha is a rare sight of large salt pans and slight depressions from wind action. Although life in Etosha is harsh, adapted elephant, wildebeest, springbok, and gemsbok gather at the outlying springs and waterholes, along with 340 species of bird.

But not only does Namibia have great unique geography, it also has one of a kind culture. The Himba people of the northwest are one of the last semi-nomadic peoples on earth. Leading pastoral lifestyles, the Himba tend goats and cattle and remain untouched by westernization due to their isolation. The Himba women are known for their intricate hairstyles and beautiful jewelry. Most Himba wear little clothing and use a fragrant mixture of red ochre and fat rubbed on their bodies, giving them a distinct red appearance.

A great confluence of opposites, the forgotten country of Namibia has much to offer for adventurers, culturalists, and travelers alike.

To take Ker & Downey’s Discover Namibia journey or customize your own trip to Namibia, contact one of our African specialists at 800.423.4236 or visit us on the web at www.kerdowney.com.
The March/April 2009 edition of Elite Traveler Magazine features an article by Margie Goldsmith about Ker & Downey and her custom journey to Egypt and Israel. We took a moment to catch up with Margie after her return home to find out what she had to say:

**K&D:** Why would you recommend Egypt and Israel?

**Margie:** Egypt and Israel bring history to life. For tens of thousands of years, Egyptian life has centered on the Nile. Today, when floating down this famous river on a luxury yacht, you will see water buffalo, mud houses with thatched roofs, and women filling their water buckets. You’ll find yourself face to face with the 4,500-year-old Sphinx or the Great Pyramid or Cairo’s market, much older than the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul. Israel, is a journey back through the Bible. In the holy city of Jerusalem, pilgrims have come for thousands of years: Jews who pray at the Western Wall, Muslims who worship at Dome of the Rock, and Christians who walk the Via Delorosa to the Church of the Selpuchre.

**K&D:** What stood out to you in your two weeks that really opened your eyes?

**Margie:** The Bible really came alive for me, especially in the Sinai desert, where it was easy to see how Moses and the Israelites could have been lost for 40 years. At St. Catherine’s Monastery, I saw Mount Moses where Moses is said to have received The Ten Commandments. Never have I experienced so much in such little time. I also learned wonderful bits of history such as: Cleopatra’s son named Caesarean, was delivered in Alexandria by the first ever C-section. And among its many achievements, Egypt invented beer, wine, and perfume.

**K&D:** Why would you recommend Ker & Downey as a tour operator for Egypt and Israel?

**Margie:** When I travel to a country to write for the luxury traveler, especially a country in which I don’t speak the language, I want to know that I am being perfectly taken care of: picked up promptly at the airport, whisked through customs, escorted everywhere in comfortable air-conditioned cars with English-speaking guides and excellent drivers — no one understands the luxury market or delivers all these services better than Ker & Downey — plus, they make sure you stay in the best hotels and resorts to assure a carefree holiday.

Ker & Downey is proud to offer completely customizable journeys to great destinations like Egypt and Israel. To learn more about planning your own getaway, contact our North African and Middle East specialists at 800.423.4236 or visit www.kerdowney.com for more information.
AUSTRALIAN DREAMTIME
FROM $34,308 PP/SHARING

This adventure to the outback combines World Heritage Sites such as Kakadu National Park or the Great Barrier Reef with island getaways and tantalizing cityscapes. Go in Ker & Downey style to Uluru and the rugged Aussie desert, feel the urban rhythm of Sydney Harbor, and even spend days exploring Kangaroo Island from the Southern Ocean Lodge’s dramatic cliff top location. Professional guides and luxurious accommodations enhance your vivid journey as you discover all that Australia has to offer, from white sand beaches to sullen desert calm.

SPLENDORS OF THE CAPE
FROM $7,630 PP/SHARING

This 15 day journey is the embodiment of South Africa, a truly magnificent destination that encompasses unique experiences not found anywhere else on the planet! Whales, walking, wilderness, and wildlife are just some of the things you’ll enjoy on this perfect itinerary. Experience everything from breathtaking beaches to the Garden Route to the plains of the Great Karoo at Samara Private Game Reserve. Witness incredible sightings of Big Five game at Shamwari, and don’t forget your hiking boots and your camera when you visit the top of Table Mountain!

NAMIBIA EXPLORER
FROM $11,450 PP/SHARING

Discover the beauty of Namibia, with ancient sand dunes, legendary shipwrecks, and the big game of the Etosha salt pan. Travel by light aircraft and begin the safari of a lifetime, flying over some of the world’s highest sand dunes (some as tall as skyscrapers) and getting a close look at the wildlife that has specially adapted to living in the desert environment. Namibia is waiting to be explored, from the shipwrecks of Skeleton Coast to the undisturbed Himba tribe, to the vibrant dunes at Sossusvlei.
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