

Check it out: Angama Mara lodge, Kenya

CHRISTINE MCCABE THE AUSTRALIAN SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 12:00AM



One of Africa's most experienced safari teams has opened a luxury lodge on Kenya's Great Rift Valley Escarpment, where some of the most famous scenes in Sydney Pollack's 1985 hit movie *Out of Africa*, based on Karen Blixen's bestseller, were filmed.

Perched above the northern tip of the quieter Mara Triangle, a hop from the capital Nairobi, Angama Mara is the brainchild of Steve and Nicky Fitzgerald, who worked with &Beyond (formerly CC Africa), he as chief executive, she as marketing director, for 15 years, expanding the operation from three to more than 60 lodges in Africa and India.

The Fitzgeralds have come out of retirement to bring everything they've learned to this dream location. A contemporary spin on the 1920s safaris enjoyed by Blixen, the lodge has two separate camps of 15 tents, each with its own kitchen, staff and guest area, as well as two sets of interconnecting tents for families.

Fashioned by one of Nairobi's best tent-makers, each suite features canvas sides with 11m-wide floor-to-ceiling glass doors opening to a platform suspended above the valley, affording sensational 180-degree views of the Masai Mara.

The almost loft-like dimensions of these luxury tents are detailed with parquet flooring, super-king bed, contemporary furniture from South African designer John Vogel, including a handsome drinks cabinet, modern Masai craftworks and deck furniture by French firm Fermob. There's even Wi-Fi.

The striking pavilion shared by both camps features an infinity pool, fitness centre and fantastic safari

shop and studio where Masai women bead bespoke items for sale.

DON'T MISS: A dawn walk along the Great Rift Valley with a Masai naturalist guide.

DINING IN: Head chef Collins Randiga and his team produce fresh, lively fare using quality local produce. A typical luncheon menu may include tuna kebabs, pulled pork sandwich, the “best burger in the Mara”, and tamarind and toasted sesame ice cream. Dining arrangements are flexible; you can join other guests or have a private dinner on your deck. And there is no buffet. Ever.

DINING OUT: Ask the kitchen to pack an Out of Africa picnic and a naturalist will escort you to the famous kopje (small hill) featured in the movie (and on the poster), where a romantic safari set-up awaits.

ASK THE CONCIERGE: Look out for the lodge’s subtle nods to Pollack’s movie, including cane plantation chairs designed especially for the director.

CHECKING IN: From \$US750 (\$1042) a person a night, including all meals, beverages, safari activities, laundry and childminding. More: [angama.com](http://www.angama.com) (<http://www.angama.com>).

ALSO TRY: Taj Safaris’ Banjar Tola, India; Great Fish River Lodge, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, South Africa.

ACCOMMODATION BUZZ:

- Sydney’s hotly anticipated Old Clare Hotel has opened in inner-city Chippendale; 62 rooms and suites now grace the heritage-listed pub and adjoining Carlton & United Breweries building, with restaurants by Jason Atherton and former Noma chef Sam Miller opening this month
- In October, Accor Hotels becomes the first major international accommodation brand to debut in Iran with the opening of the Novotel IKIA and Ibis IKIA, both connected to the main terminal of Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport
- The newly opened Six Senses Qing Cheng Mountain resort in China is offering sustainable airport transfers in the form of a Tesla Model S electric car with a special glass “panoramic” roof
- In California’s Silicon Valley, the recently opened Enchante Boutique Hotel becomes the first in the region to kit out its rooms with “certified organic, sustainably produced mattresses”
- Victorian foodie retreat the Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld, at the southern end of the Grampians National Park, has a Restore at the Royal package until February 29; from \$465 a couple, including cottage accommodation with Grampian views, five-course dinner, breakfast hamper and yoga class.

50% OFF A WEEK FOR THE FIRST 12 WEEKS*

*Conditions apply

Digital subscription +
Weekend paper delivery

SUBSCRIBE NOW