

BEST COUNTRIES FOR SUMMER TRAVEL

by Ted Cookson

Is your family thinking of taking a summer holiday this year? The summer season is the best time to visit eighteen different countries - eight in Africa and the Indian Ocean, four in Europe and three each in Asia and the Near East.

EIGHT DESTINATIONS IN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN:

BOTSWANA: The dry season for viewing game stretches from April to

Mara is from July to September. As the cats follow the wildebeest, the annual Serengeti migration can be a very exciting phenomenon to witness.

REUNION ISLAND: The best season for a visit to this remote but beautiful island lying to the east of Madagascar is between May and November. Volcanic in origin, Reunion is nearly devoid of sandy beaches. Tourists can explore the island's volcanic craters and even drive into cirques, large craters whose walls have eroded, leaving a path to the sea.

RWANDA: Prime time for visiting this central African country is from June to September. Rwanda is best known for its mountain gorillas. Tourists take short treks through the rain forest to view these magnificent creatures. Visits are limited to less than one hour in order to ensure that the mountain gorillas do not become habituated to humans.

SEYCHELLES: Best visited from May to October, this island republic lying off the coast of Kenya contains some of the world's most beautiful beaches. In the Seychelles large granite

boulders form a unique, picturesque backdrop to the pristine white sand, creating images worthy of posters which could be displayed in any travel agency window.

SOUTH AFRICA: In general, the best time to visit this vast country is from July through mid-October. South



Africa's Kruger Park is one of the world's largest. Cape Town, situated under Table Mountain near the southernmost point in Africa, is another big tourist draw.

TANZANIA: The best months for game viewing in northern Tanzania are from June to October and also during January and February. Tanzania's Serengeti Park hosts the wildebeest herds during most of the year, except for the period from July to September when the animals migrate over the border into Kenya's Masai Mara Park.

ZAMBIA: As is the case for Botswana, the dry season for game viewing is from April to October. In addition to its

large game reserves of Luangwa and Kafue, Zambia also boasts world-famous

VICTORIA FALLS



Victoria Falls, called "mosi-oa-tunya" in the local language, "the smoke that thunders." The reference is to the clouds of mist given off by these world-class falls which were discovered by David Livingstone.

FOUR DESTINATIONS IN EUROPE:

CYPRUS: Best visited from May to September, Cyprus makes for a lovely long weekend getaway from



Egypt. Most tourists elect to stay at one of the resorts in the South such as Limassol. But a pleasant day trip can also be taken to the North. There one can see St. Hilarion's Castle, Bellepais



LUXURY TENT

October, with September being the very best month. Botswana's gem is the game-rich Okavango Delta, one of the world's largest inland oases. This country is often combined with visits to Zambia to see Victoria Falls and/or to South Africa to visit Cape Town.

KENYA: Kenya's two best game-viewing seasons are between July and October and between December and



TREETOPS

March. However, the best time to see the wildebeest migration in Kenya's Masai