

TRAVELLER

CHECK →

TRAVEL CULTURE IN ZIMBABWE • VOLUME 3 • JAN-MAR 2025



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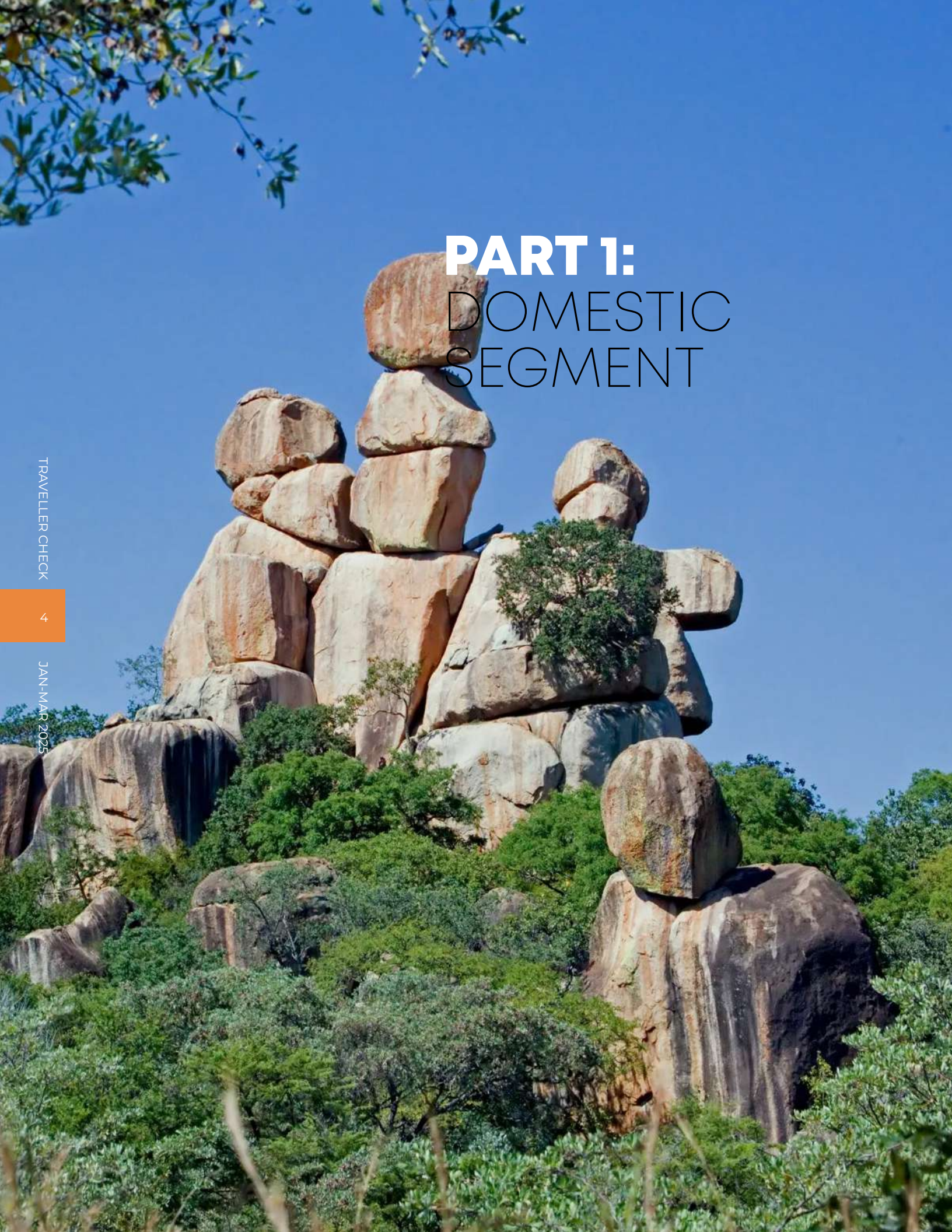
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Welcome to another refreshing edition of the iconic tabloid – Traveller Check Magazine Zimbabwe. We bring you fresh insights from the travel and hospitality sector. Have you already made your travel plans for your next holiday or expedition? Leisure and travel allows us to discover the hidden treasures of the world. In this issue we feature Ngamo Safaris, who exhibit unique hospitality and a variety of world class offerings.

We also delve into the pertinent issues around global travel and how to enhance our safety and security during travel. This issue also presents some of the new developments in aviation, including some of the largest aircraft variants and how they are faring in the aviation industry. We also delve into environmentally sustainable aircraft. With the aviation sector now fully recovered from Covid-19, it is now being carefully assessed whether the initial notions of the non-viability of high capacity aircrafts has seen its past. In reality, these high capacity aircrafts are getting back onto the agenda of discussion.

We also reflect on the need for baggage safety during travel and to ensure that it is not left unattended. The issue also encourages travelers to be on the lookout for criminal activities. In whatever we do, let's not forget to – TRAVEL Until the next issue – Happy travelling folks!



PART 1: DOMESTIC SEGMENT

ANCIENT SITES IN ZIMBABWE THAT ARE LESS WELL KNOWN... BUT DEFINITELY WORTH A VISIT

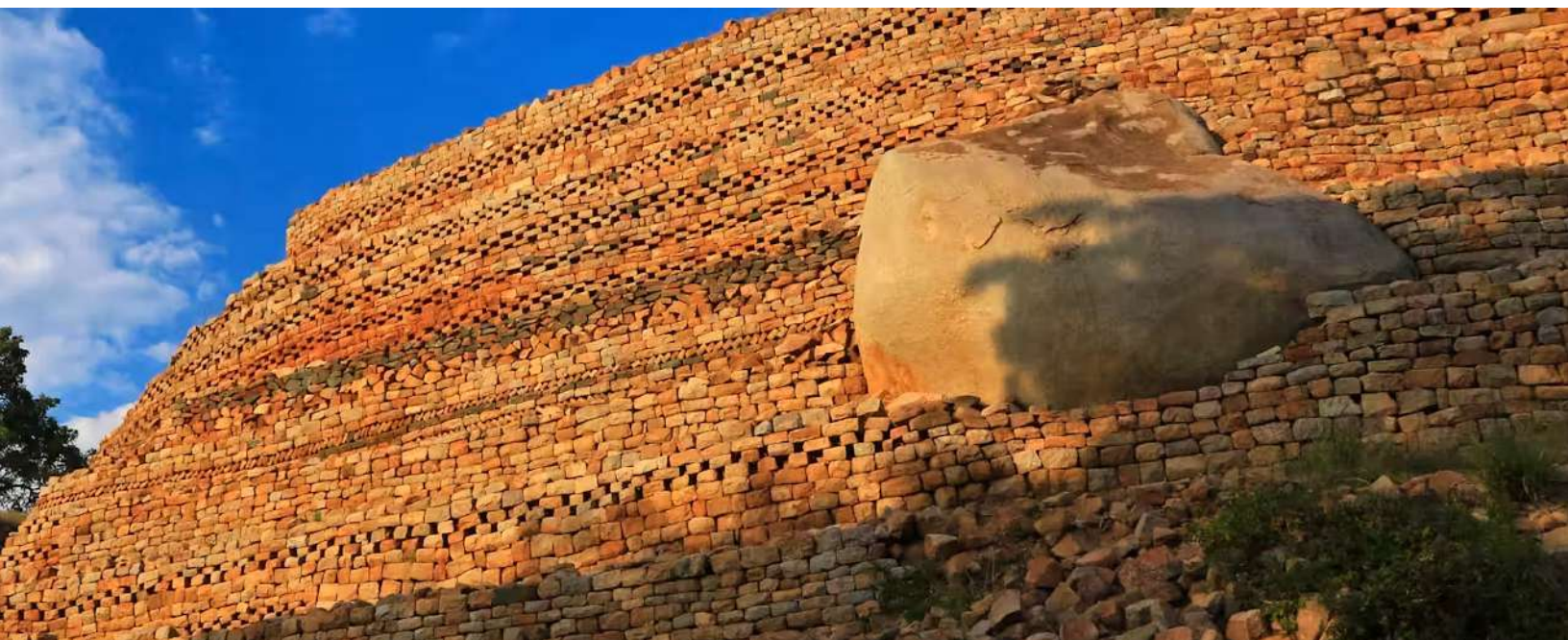
There are many ancient sites in Zimbabwe, (apart from the renowned Great Zimbabwe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site), which both international and local travellers are seldom aware of, and rarely make the effort to visit. The rewards of visiting these sites are remarkable – you can see and hear the whispers of great and influential past civilisations.

Khami World Heritage Site

lies about 22kms from the City of Bulawayo along fairly good roads, so its easily accessible for a day trip. It's sometimes considered a smaller sibling of Great Zimbabwe. It was inhabited from around 1450 to 1683 when the dominant Torwa Empire was overthrown

by the Rozvi. The Rozvi did not destroy the site but built on and extended it, adding to the dry stone walls similar to structural designs of Great Zimbabwe. The site was occupied until around 1830 when invasions from Mfecane brought the empire to a close. There are a number of tour

operators and safari groups that offer guided tours of the ruins although visitors are free to explore on their own. Pack a picnic lunch and spend the day exploring - and don't forget your camera. There's a small museum at the site with interesting background information.



Danangombe Monument (formerly known as Dhlo Dhlo)

is located between the town of Shangani and the City of Gweru about 100 kms north of Bulawayo. After turning off the highway the road is a little rough but easily accessible in a pickup truck or similar vehicle. The ruins are similar in size and style to Khami and were probably built and occupied in the 17th and 18th Centuries, after the decline of Khami. It was one of the centres of the Rozvi cultures following on from the dominance of the Torwa. The Monument is made of two large platforms surrounded by retaining walls with a passageway connecting them. The larger eastern platform covers around 2,800 square metres with retaining walls up to 3 metres high, while the smaller western platform covers around 900 square metres with walls rising up to 6 metres high. The platforms were created by using solid rubble compacted on top of a granite base. The walls are decorated in patterns similar to those found at Great Zimbabwe and Khami, including chevron, herringbone and chequer designs. The grey, granite dry stone walls have been ornamented with bands of reddish brown ironstone. The platforms were probably surrounded by pole and dagga huts for residents, but little evidence of these remains.

Earlier excavations found gold, silver, iron and bronze objects as well as items from the Dutch and Portuguese traders and a Chinese Ming dynasty bowl suggesting that Danangombe was an important trading site. There's a small museum on the site and a guide is sometimes available. There are toilets and picnic sites available.





About 20 kms north east of Danangombe is the **Nalatale Monument**. Khami was built in the late 15th century, Danangombe in the 16th century and Nalatale in the 17th century. Nalatale is built on a small hill above the surrounding plains and on a clear day Danangombe can be seen in this distance. The access road is a bit rough and there's a walk of about 800 metres at the end to reach the Monument, so be sure to bring loads of water, sunscreen, a hat and sensible shoes. A packed lunch is a good idea as you'll need some energy for the walk there and back. As it's quite remote there are seldom other visitors and you're likely to have the place to yourselves.

Nalatale is relatively small compared to Khami and Danangombe. The enclosure is about 53 metres in diameter and the walls are 2 to 2.5 metres high and 1 to 3 metres in width. It was probably used as a part time royal residence or retreat for the ruler and his family rather than a permanent settlement. The site itself, at the crest of a small kopje, offers incredible views across the countryside below. The existing walls have been described as the most picturesque and beautiful examples among the estimated 200 (or more) dry stone ruins and monuments across the country. It was declared a National Monument in 1960 and since then some restoration and maintenance work has taken place to help preserve this unique piece of history. TripAdvisor has awarded the site four and a half stars and it's on the way to become a UNESCO World Heritage site – so even though it's a bit daunting it's well worth the effort – and some great photo opportunities.

The Zinjanja Monument (formerly known as Regina Ruins) has only recently been cleared and opened to the public. Its situated 11 kms west of Danangombe and 24 kms south of the nearest settlement, Fort Rixon, so it's well off the usual tourist routes. No restoration has taken place so some of the dry stone walls have collapsed, and the entrance, grain bins and terracing need attention. But because the site is pristine and untouched echoes of the original inhabitants can still be heard among the terraces and walls. It was first revealed to Western eyes in 1894 when Dr Hans Sauer, Captain Sampson and B. Bradley were travelling through the Insiza district. They discovered a circular stone building of three or four tiers that reduced in size from the largest at the bottom to the smallest at the top, connected by stairs. Initially they thought it was some kind of temple built on a large granite dome. The site also contains large holes or chambers which are believed to have been used for grain storage. Zinjanja can be visited from 6am to 6pm every day. Hubbard's Historical Tours and Jabulani Safaris offer guided day trips to Danangombe, Naletale, Zinjanja and Bila. Bila is thought to be a kind of lookout site or a halfway station between larger trading posts. A small enclosure further away from the vantage point probably held produce like grain or livestock.

These are just a few of the stunning, unique and mysterious ancient sites which local and international travellers should visit to appreciate the history and culture of our beautiful Zimbabwe.







NGAMO SAFARIS

"A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE"

Ngamo Safaris boasts of a photographic lodge known as Ganda Lodge. It is located within the beautiful teak woodlands of the Sikumi Forest bordering the famous Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's premier wildlife area.

The lodge can accommodate 26 people sharing (depending on the breakdown of travellers).

The lodge overlooks the Ganda pan, a natural waterhole, which attracts a wide variety of bird and animal species including elephant, buffalo, lion and a large variety of waterfowl.

The lodge has matured in the hospitality and tourism sector to cater for a wide range of travellers. Game Drives are conducted by our experienced Guides through the famous Hwange National Park or in our private estate.

It is against this background that we wish to work with you when you want to go or have guests that want to go to the Hwange area. We can then accommodate you or them at Ganda Lodge. Transfers from Victoria Falls and Bulawayo can be arranged, at an extra cost.

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Products also on offer include:

- Walking safaris
- Village tours
- Painted Dog project Center visits.



GANDA LODGE



Ganda lodge is located within the beautiful teak woodlands of the Sikumi Forest bordering the Hwange National Park Zimbabwe's premier wildlife area. Ganda Lodge overlooks the Ganda pan, a natural waterhole, which attracts a wide variety of bird and animal species including elephant, buffalo, lion and a large variety of waterfowl.

Visitors are welcome to the lodge by game, which is unperturbed by the presence of human beings. Instinctively visitors are able to take pictures of game well before they disembark from their cars and before they even checked in our majestic lodges. Built in 1992, the lodge has matured in the hospitality and catering sectors to cater for a wide range of international, regional and local clients.



FACILITIES



The lodge has eight double storey chalets of stone under thatch. Each of the chalets has one king/queen size and two three quarter beds, a fireplace, a bathroom, shower and overhead ceiling fans to cool the rooms. The interiors are decorated in distinctly African style and include teak furnishings.

The well-maintained swimming pool offers clients an opportunity to cool off after an eventful day of game viewing. For those who want to conference in the wild, the lodge offers conferencing facilities for up to forty people. Bar facilities are offered at the lodge with a variety of drinks available to clients.

MEALS

The dining room offers excellent buffet meals and a mouth-watering selection of game meats (when in season) prepared on the barbecue. After dinner, guests may retire to the traditional open bone fire where they can enjoy the splendours of the African night highlighted by the flood lit pan. All these and refreshments are offered in a tranquil environment courtesy of Ganda lodge.



ACTIVITIES

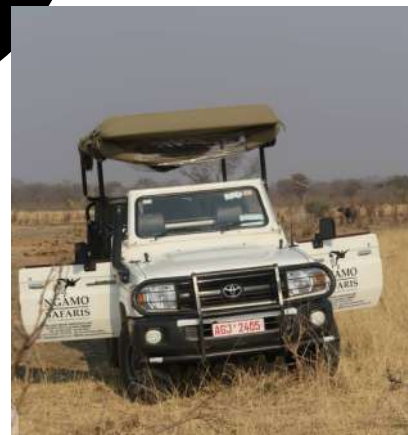
Experience the thrill of big game and plains game sightings as our professional guides lead you through the National Park or in our private 40 000acre estate.

- Night Eyes (Night Game Drives) around the estate can be arranged just to finish off the day.
- Walking Safaris will provide you with an opportunity to get close to nature and appreciate the sights and sounds of the African Wild.
- Tours to nearby villages can be arranged to provide you with a unique insight of the African life and culture.



- A visit to the Painted Dog Project Centre will leave you well educated about how these extinct animals survive in the wild. There is a well-trained Guide to take you on an approximately one and a half hour tour of the center where at times wounded Dogs are kept while being treated.

Welcome to Ganda Lodge!



NGAMO SAFARIS

"A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE"



For all your bookings to our majestic lodges please contact our Reservations Office:

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PART 2: INTERNATIONAL SEGMENT

RELAX AND TRAVEL

“Get the best of life through discovering the world”

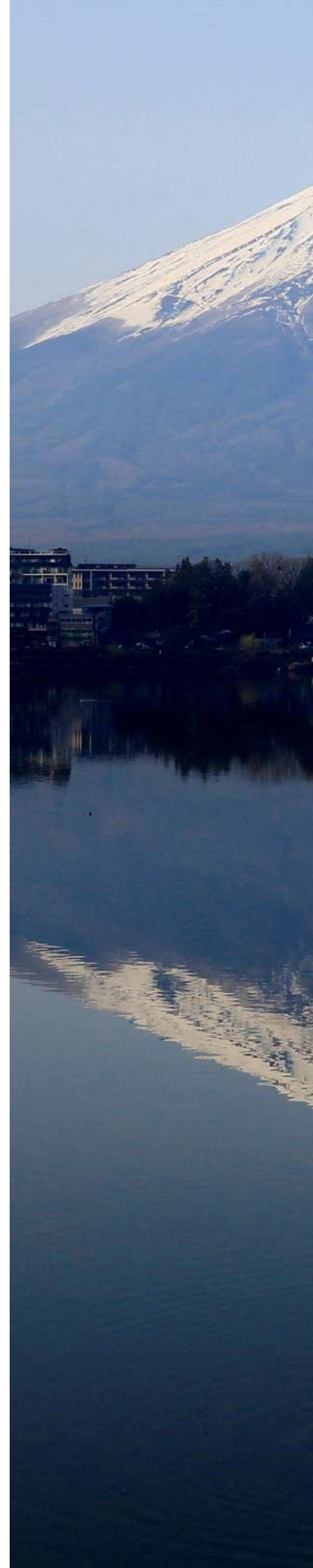
MOUNTAIN SICKNESS – A MENACE TO SOME TRAVELLERS

Mountain hiking and climbing expeditions are common to those people who travel to different parts of the world. It gives you a pinnacle view of the world. However, there are some individuals who are affected by mountain sickness. It is not everyone. Our bodies are different in terms of how they are made and how they respond to different environments.

In order to undertake hiking, it is necessary to be physically fit. Due to the grueling demands of the course on the physical body, it is necessary to ensure that your physical fitness is not compromised. Furthermore, hiking with children is not recommended. Then, there are also individuals with chest and breathing problems or sore throat – in general hiking is not recommended. To some selected individuals when going up very high mountains, it is possible to feel dizzy, disoriented or struggling to breathe. It is necessary to ensure that when going up high altitudes, climb gradually and not rapidly. This ensures that your body adjusts.

If in doubt, always consult your medical doctor to ensure that you get professional advice. Many people have died due to causes associated with mountain sickness and some of them could have been prevented. In the spirit of travel and tourism, it is still essential to ensure your safety and health

DISCLAIMER: This article cannot be considered as medical advice. For specific information consult your medical doctor. The editors and authors of Traveler Check Magazine cannot be liable to any loss incurred due to using information contained in this article. Readers should get professional medical guidance.





ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES RECEIVES ITS AIRBUS A350-1000



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1st A350 -

Ethiopian Airlines has taken delivery of the Airbus A350-1000 variant, breaking ground on the African continent. The legendary airline continues to show why it is highly esteemed not only in Africa, but also on a global level. The Airbus A350-1000 variant is a wide body aircraft which can accommodate between 350-410 passenger. With a gigantic wing-span of 64.75m and a range of 16 482km, this wide-body aircraft is transformational to travelers. Therefore, the acquisition of this sophisticated machine by Ethiopian Airlines, is testimony of their commitment to serve with distinction. Ethiopian Airlines was voted the Best Airline in Africa by Skytrax World Airline Awards.

According to Airbus, the A350-1000 boasts of the quietest cabin, seats that are wider and also a good ambient environment with LED ambient lighting. Travelling with the Airbus A350-1000 is a key step in reducing jet lag, which many passengers are always talking about. With the A350-1000, the concerns of jet lag are greatly reduced.



AIRBUS A380 RESURGENCE ON THE RISE

The Airbus A380 is making a great resurgence on world airline markets, after its halt in production, whilst those in service remained operational. With its gigantic size, many airlines thought that it would not be able to fill up its capacity and would be expensive to operate. However, after the Covid-19 pandemic, it is proving to be filling to the brim. Airbus itself does not rule out resuming production of the A380.





Some of the issues that had been in discussion included the high capacity that needed passengers, fuel costs and also the need for some airports to upgrade to ensure their infrastructure could accommodate the A380. However, despite these issues, the performance of the A380 after Covid-19 has been impressive.



Boasting of a very good safety record, the A380 remains the king of the skies. The A380 had its first flight in 2005, was tested and entered into service in 2007 with first delivery to Singapore Airlines and then the last unit was produced in 2021 which was delivered to Emirates. Over the years it has proven to be a work horse with the unique double deck orientation. In some cases, the economics of running it in some airlines proved an issue, whereas in some airlines it flourished. Time will tell, whether its resurgence will be sustained, but for now, it is on an ascendancy.

BOEING 787 - DREAMLINER

A GAME CHANGER IN AVIATION CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner continues to mesmerize in the skies. Over the years it has endeared itself with many travelers. Key special features of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner include composite materials which make it lightweight and thereby excelling in fuel economy. The plane has the largest windows in commercial flight and these windows have special features of being dimmable. Furthermore, the Dreamliner has diverse ranges and serves domestic, regional and international routes. Its composite materials such as carbon fibre and efficiency makes it an environmentally sustainable aircraft.



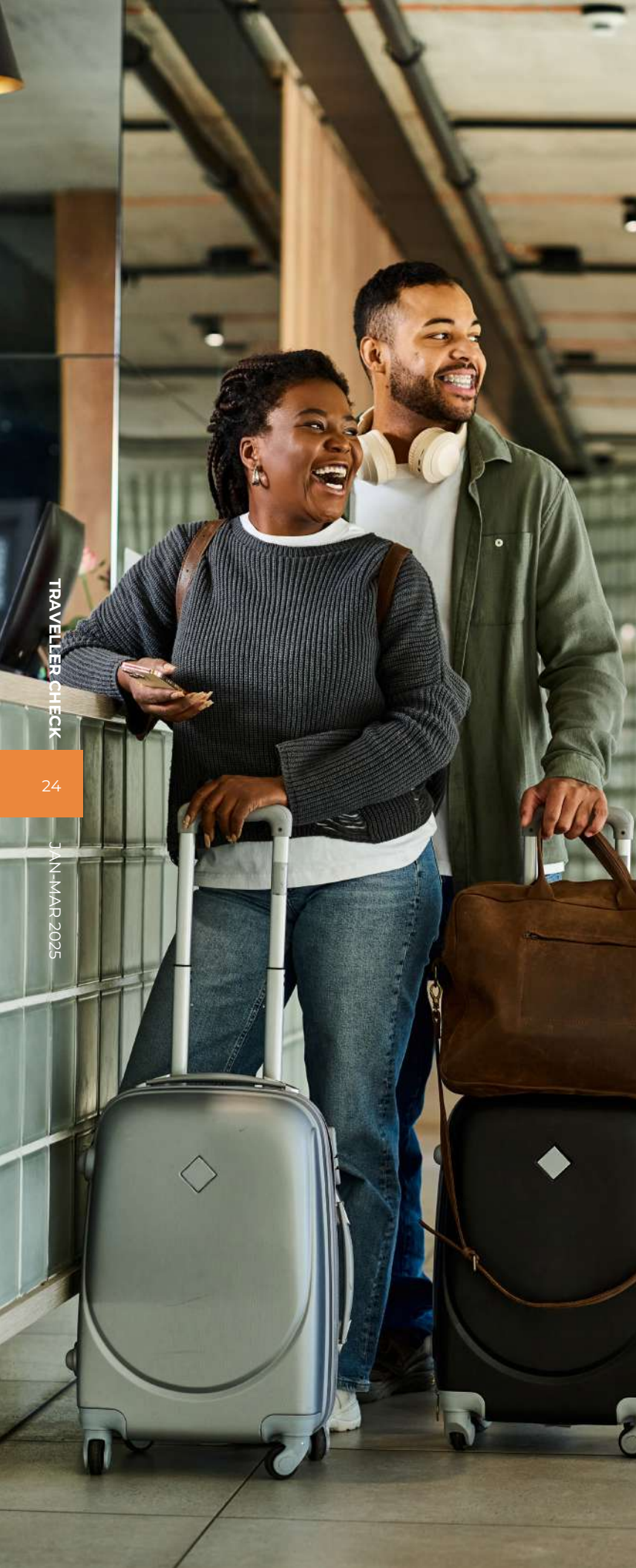
EMBRAER

SOARS ON REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ROUTES



Embraer has been in the aviation sector for some time now and they are not strangers anymore. But in comparison to traditional aircraft manufacturers, Embraer was formed in the year 1969 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Embraer started from humble beginnings and continues to see good growth. Some of the factors that are leading to the rapid development of Embraer is its diverse portfolio of passenger aircraft, military aircraft, executive aviation, among others. Embraer is excelling in small body aircrafts and now ranked the 3rd largest aircraft manufacturer in the world.





WHY BAGGAGE SAFETY MATTERS

Travelling is a dream for many people worldwide. Coming along with the serendipitous nature of travel, many people desire to visit all parts of the world.

Along the way people carry luggage alongside them to ensure they have their clothes, precious items, accessories, medication and many other requirements. However, it is essential to ensure that luggage does not contain dangerous goods such as flammable materials and weapons. Each airline and also each airport has its own requirements but there is general aviation consensus on many of the desired items and those prohibited. Liquids, Aerosols and Gels (LAGs) have some limits in terms of quantity, whereas the packaging of certain types of batteries may pose fire risk. This is why passenger baggage is screened to identify, prevent and mitigate some of these risks.

It is essential to underline that travelers must not leave their baggage unattended or under the care of strangers. Furthermore, passengers should be on the lookout for people who may want to place drugs, explosive items and other dangerous materials in their luggage. Your luggage is your responsibility. Airport authorities and airline authorities are also on the lookout for any potential risks that may endanger other passengers. If you do not ensure baggage safety and prevention of dangerous materials in your baggage, you could also be arrested and charged.

BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS WHILST ON HOLIDAY

Travelling to the world's best destination is a desired endeavor for many people. However, snoozing and losing concentration can lead to huge losses. In many tourist destinations there are some pickpockets and criminals who are waiting to pounce on travelers. In most cases, some petty crimes during festivals where tourists converge do occur. However, it is essential to ensure that all valuables are kept well. Travelers, should avoid travelling with large sums of cash and have adequate cash for their needs. Where possible combining cash with credit card can be helpful. Avoiding leaving valuables unattended is a must. It is also essential to be simple and not overly exhibit affluence during your expeditions.



TRAVEL DUE DILIGENCE ESSENTIALS

Even if you are on holiday, you need to keep your eyes open and continue to be responsible throughout the entirety of your vacation. Taking heed of some of the following measures will spare you from serious trouble:

- Watch out for strangers who may want to trick you with some scams
- Make sure you have contacts of emergency services
- Make sure you have maps of the local area including those that work offline so that you do not get stranded
- Keep your valuables safe



- Avoid looking too flashy so that you do not attract unwanted attention from strangers and possibly criminals
- Mind the food that you eat and ensure it is from trusted and hygienic sources
- Avoid dark alleys and deserted streets where you could be mugged
- Avoid travelling with large sums of cash
- Avoid impulse buying that leads you to become broke whilst on vacation and then becoming stranded in a foreign land.
- Respect local customs and cultural values.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRAVELLING

The year 2024 is on course to be the hottest year in the history of humanity. This will also have some lasting effects on human health and travel plans. The places which are hot, shall become hotter.

This realisation places tourists and locals at a very high risk. There is a trend of increase in the number of tourists who have succumbed to heat whilst on vacation. As temperatures continue to increase, there may be potential impacts on preferences for destinations, times of travel and ultimately revenue. Furthermore, the change in climatic conditions and seasons also presents daunting challenges.



Whilst some tourists go on holiday to encounter warm weather, the recent patterns have defied expectations. Keeping the body hydrated is very essential in order to avoid health challenges. Climate change is also coming with other extreme weather events such as cyclones, tsunamis and tornadoes. These are also key emergency situations for tourists. It is therefore essential to ensure that before travelling, tourists must monitor weather situation and forecasts. Impacts on ecosystems include reduced vegetation and bleaching of corals. If travellers wish to view coral reefs, it becomes difficult to catch a glimpse of the marvels of mother earth.



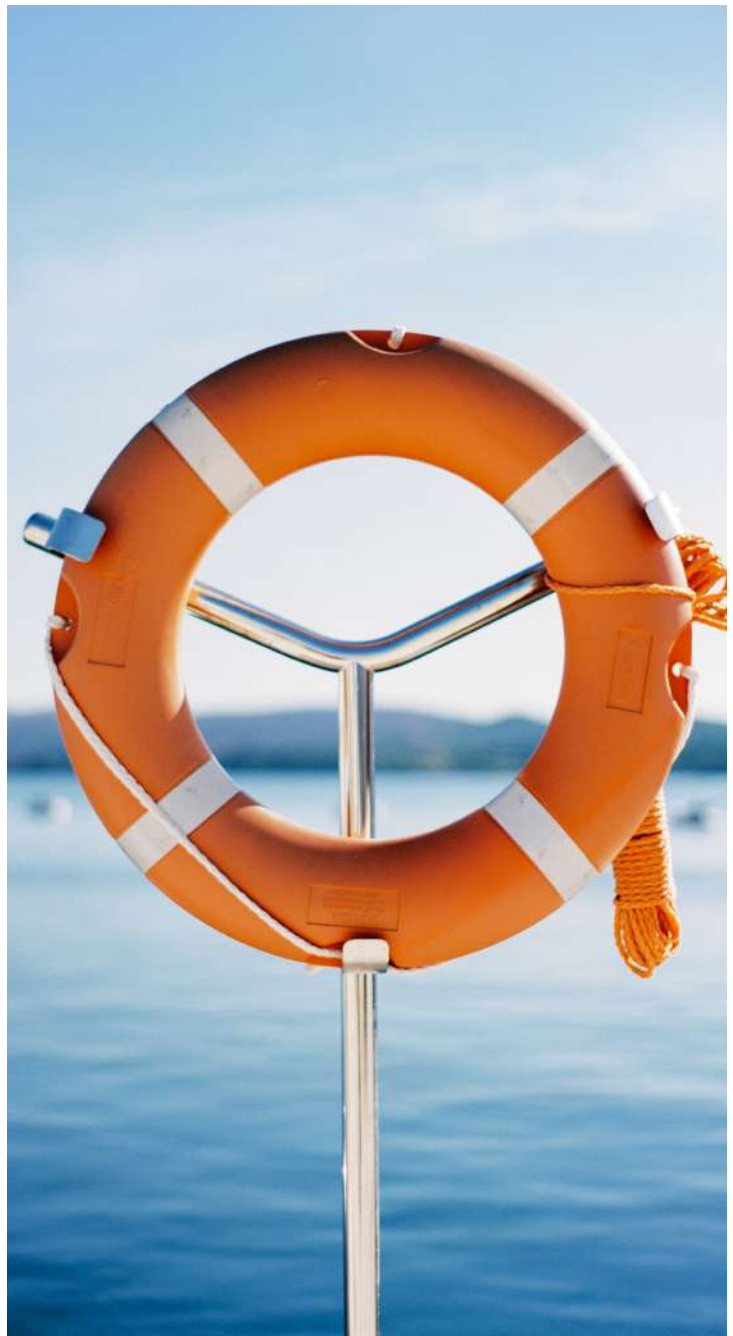
BOAT SAFETY FOR

TRAVELLERS

Travelling to marine spots is one of the marvellous things that a tourist can do. Whether it is a local or international expedition at the lake, dam, sea or ocean, it is necessary to always consider precautions.

Whilst on board a vessel on water, some passengers may easily get carried away and this may lead to fatal outcomes. Furthermore, if travelling with elders and minors, extra care needs to be taken in order to maintain safety. Some of the key essentials of boat safety include the following:

- o Always wear your life jacket (the majority of people who die in water related accidents on boats, were not wearing life jackets).
- o Avoid fidgeting or horseplay on board.
- o Hire cruise companies which are registered, legitimate and safe.
- o Monitor kids and the elderly.
- o Be prepared for weather changes which are unexpected.
- o Avoid experimenting overboard whilst at sea, on the lake or whilst aboard vessels floating on dams.
- o Be careful when interacting with wildlife. Avoid getting into direct contact or provoking them.
- o Be responsible with alcohol use, so that you remain sane whilst you are on board.
- o Listen to, and follow instructions provided during safety briefings.
- o Watch out for slippery floors obstructions and obstructions.
- o Adhere to emergency instructions.



RELAX AND TRAVEL

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