



CENTRAL PERK

THE GARAMBA GUEST LODGE IS PUTTING THE DRC BACK ON THE SAFARI MAP, SAYS **STEPHEN CUNLIFFE**

CENTRAL AFRICAN tourist destinations are few and far between, but world-class hotels and safari lodges are even thinner on the ground in this forgotten region. Thankfully, a Central African national park recently burst onto the safari scene with a lodge that rivals the best Africa has to offer.

Garamba Guest Lodge opened its doors to the



public in June 2010 and is quite possibly the most magnificent property in all of the Congo.

The luxury camp, comprising ten immaculate en suite chalets and an impressive central lodge building, was built by master craftsmen from Benin. The double rooms offer understated luxury and comfort, while the open-plan dining and lounge area has been impressively constructed of wood and glass.

The dining area opens onto a spacious veranda with heavy wooden tables and canvas chairs overlooking the perennial Dungu River. After an action-packed day exploring the park, it is perfect for a sundowner.

Rest your weary limbs

between crisp Egyptian cotton sheets and, as you lie in bed listening to the sound of hippos munching grass right outside your window, the distant whoop of a hyaena or primordial roar of a lion will lull you to sleep.

Garamba is not an easy place to get to and only the most committed wildlife enthusiasts will undertake the arduous journey. The reward is the privilege of having one of Africa's oldest and wildest national parks all to yourself. Garamba Lodge is offering an attractive opening special and throwing in game drives and walking safaris at no extra cost.

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