



GOING GLOBAL

Adventurous spirits seeking to combine safari with luxury living might want to hang their pith helmet at the **Chongwe River House** in Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia. Open from April to November, the house can accommodate up to eight guests and includes four large bedrooms, a dining/sitting area, and swimming pool.

Located on the banks of the Chongwe River, the house's bedrooms, sitting room, and deck offer views of wild life feeding and watering. The home itself is built with wild wood with the walls following the natural lines of the branches, so there are no straight lines anywhere. The main room has low bridges over flowing water and curved tunnels lead to the bedrooms, eliminating the need for doors. The

showers have water cascading out of the stone ceiling.

A private chef, house manager and armed scout for walking safari also are available. Rates range from \$1,700 to \$2,500 for up to four guests per night.

"Who travels to the Chongwe River House? Safari travelers with a sense of fun and adventure that want a touch of luxury and are looking for a private experience with their family or friends," says Jo Pope of Robin Pope Safaris, which handles booking of the house.

Dr. Livingstone, we presume, never had it so good.



All the furniture in the sitting room of the Chongwe River House was carved from a single huge fallen winterthorn tree.

— Ken Weingartner

FABULOUS FINDS

The past is present on the shores of Swan Lake near Bigfork, Montana, where brothers Paul and Robert Milhous have restored and redeveloped the century-old summer retreat formerly belonging to "Copper Kings" Lewis Orvis Evans and Cornelius Kelley called **The Kootenai**.



At The Kootenai, miles of backcountry allow for hiking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

Set on 42 forested acres, The Kootenai features 42 single-family residences: 10 restored cabin homes and 32 newly constructed cabin units. All homes are four or five bedrooms and range in price from \$2 million to \$7 million, fully furnished. The centerpiece of the estate, a rustic log lodge designed by Kirtland Cutter, was converted into a community center.

"The Kootenai represents the melding of two distinct eras and offers the best of both worlds—today's modern luxury with the essence and charm of a simpler time," says Paul Milhous.

All of the cabins have an early 20th-century ambiance, including hardwood floors, rock fireplaces and high open ceilings of raw timber beams. Some homes feature historical amenities, such as a root cellar with bank vault door that was used to store alcohol during prohibition and will be transformed into a wine cellar.

"Each of these buildings is like a living novel, with a personality of its own," says interior designer Warren Sheets.

—Ken Weingartner

Luxury properties from **Montana** can be found on pages 16 and 150 (CB 38). On **UniqueHomes.com**, find 80 homes in Montana from \$699,900 to \$24 million.

For more on the Chongwe River House, visit **safarihouses.com**. For more on The Kootenai, visit **thekootenai.com**.

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