



## NAMIBIA A sea of sand

By Nigel Tisdall

**Natural Selection** is a new collection of owner-managed safari lodges that considers tourism a valuable tool in the battle to conserve and protect southern Africa's last great wild places. At its core is a network of seven camps across northern Botswana, with another two due to open in South Africa next year. The company's most adventurous projects, though, lie in Namibia, where 2018 will see the unveiling of **Nkasa Linyanti Camp**, in the wildlife-rich wetlands of Caprivi, and **Shipwreck Lodge** on the Skeleton Coast, with 12 rooms designed as shipwrecks hidden in the dunes. Perhaps the most exciting, **Hoanib Valley Camp** (above), which opens in the Kaokoveld in May, is a six-tent camp developed in partnership with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. This will be home to a long-running project overseen by Dr Julian Fennessy, the world's foremost expert on giraffes, and guests can interact with researchers working to conserve this desert-adapted Angolan species. Encounters with the traditional Himba people are a further privilege of spending time in one of the last truly wild places on the planet.

From £300 per night; [naturalselection.travel](http://naturalselection.travel)



## UNITED STATES The private mountain

By Gabriella Le Breton

Why share a mountain when you can have one to yourself? They've got this thoroughly spoiling concept covered at top ski resorts in the US. It all started with Montana's **Yellowstone Club** ([yellowstoneclub.com](http://yellowstoneclub.com)), where members stump up a £230,000 joining fee, purchase a property (from £1.5-£19 million) and pay annual fees of £30,000 to access the clubhouse and 2,200 acres of skiable terrain. Vermont's **Hermitage Club** ([hermitageclub.com](http://hermitageclub.com)) followed, offering members-only ski access to Haystack Mountain at weekends and during school holidays: family memberships cost £64,500. Now there's Colorado's **Cimarron Mountain Club** ([cimarronmountainclub.com](http://cimarronmountainclub.com)) which has opened membership to 15 families, with annual fees from £42,000 and properties from around £2.4 million, offering private cat skiing on 1,950 acres and a slick clubhouse. **Eagle Point Resort**, Utah (left) boasts 40 marked trails and can now be booked for up to 200 people from £5,900 per day. And **Silverton Mountain**, Colorado ([silvertonmountain.com](http://silvertonmountain.com)) can be yours from £11,500 per day, with the option of a helicopter for extra thrills.