



Ling Safari is open all year round and prices start from £100 per night. Find out more at lingsafari.co.uk

All mod cons come as standard



Safari tents offer a taste of Africa (in the West Mids) for Ellie and Darren

Call of the wild

Darren Calpin and his daughter **Ellie** experience wild camping on a tamer scale. In the West Midlands. With all mod cons...

IF YOU FANCY an adventurous safari camping experience, yet are reluctant to do without your mod cons, look no further than Ling Safari. Set on a picturesque country farm in the heart of rural Worcestershire, this quirky-yet-glam accommodation boasts a selection of pre-erected safari tents and bell-tents aimed squarely at family groups hunting for wild times at nearby West Midlands Safari Park,

and at loved-up couples keen to live out their Out of Africa fantasies. The surrounding landscape of rolling fields and leafy coppices, combined with the abundant peace and quiet, is immediately affecting, transporting you from the rat race to a far-off



Where roughing it isn't an option

rustic idyll in double-quick time. It is, however, the intermittent sound of wild animals, howling and roaring over at the nearby safari park, that is most evocative. Without doubt, listening to hippos grunt while you're sat out on your tent deck watching the sun go down certainly has a way of bringing out the David Attenborough in you.

A SAFARI TWIST

Annie, the industrious and ever-so-welcoming owner of Ling Farm, has been evolving this 'British camping with a safari twist' sideline with her partner and son for the past six years. And, while adventure is very much encouraged here, roughing it certainly is not. In truth, the amenities and level of service delivered by Annie and co. is well above any kind of glamping.

For a start, all of the robust, wooden-floored family tents come with a welcome fun pack for

kids and a food hamper. You also get a gratis bottle of plonk, tea, coffee and – if you order in advance – the option to ravish a home-cooked meal as soon as you arrive. Logs for fire pits and fuel for your splendid wood-burning stove are also included, as is all bedding, linen, cutlery and crockery.

EVERYTHING, INCLUDING A KITCHEN SINK

Though plans are afoot to add several more units in the near future, there are at present three large five- and six-berth safari tents, each of which has an open-plan lounge with a dining table and two oversized sofas. Carpeted floors, hot running water and a full gas cooker and grill come as standard, too. And, before you ask: yes; there is a kitchen sink...

In addition, all three family tents feature two separate double bedrooms where memory foam

mattresses and themed bedding (on the child-friendly bunks) await. Outside you'll find a furnished wooden deck with a fire-pit to the front, and individual composting toilet and hot shower cubicles – both covered – to the rear. Showering is a definite highlight: soaking up sweeping views as you enjoy a hot al-fresco blast is a stunning way to start your day. My young daughter Ellie and I had the pleasure of staying in 'Tiger', a six-berth family tent set in the lower field by itself. This suited us perfectly as it added to the whole 'getting away from it all' vibe and gave us plentiful opportunities to explore/play around in the surrounding fields. We learned that 'Lion' and 'Giraffe' – located next to each other in the upper field – are a popular choice with groups as they enable up to 11 people to share their safari experience when they're booked as a pair. [GTW](#)