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SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Geopolitical pressures make the journey to some remarkable destinations a balancing act of risks and rewards.

TRAVEL IS EVERYDAY

DIPLOMACY, with the potential to build economic and cultural bridges when politicians can't. That's especially true for countries afflicted by war, terrorism, crime, disease or unrest—or countries hostile to the U.S. For travelers, the risks can be significant. But so can the rewards: seeing some of the world's most breathtaking sights while boosting local economies and fostering cultural exchange. Here are six countries that offer both adventure and uncertainty. The decision depends on you. >>



PHOTO: STEVE HERRER (GIAFFE); MICHAEL BEDNAREK/IMAGESTOCK/CORBIS; MASSA; MARIKA UTRIA; BRYAN BUSOVICH/ISTOCKPHOTO/SHUTTER; ANDRES MADRUGA/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



Kenya

An exotic-animal sanctuary thrives amid human unrest.

MILLIONS OF ANIMALS TRAVEL THROUGH THIS AREA IN A SPECTACLE CALLED THE "GREAT MIGRATION."



REWARDS

Kenya is one of Africa's premier safari destinations. **The Masai Mara National Reserve** is home to "the big five" animals that top any safari-goer's wildlife wish list—lions, elephants, rhinoceros, leopards and buffalo—as well as other camera-magnet animals like hippopotamuses, giraffes, zebras and crocodiles. In October and July, millions of animals travel through this area in herds to adjacent reserves in a spectacle called the "great migration." Other reserves to witness the animals include **Amboseli National Park** and **Oi Pejeta Conservancy**, which is home to more black rhinoceroses than any other region in East Africa.



RISKS

In recent years Kenya has been the scene of horrific terrorist attacks by Al Qaeda and its affiliate Al Shabaab. The most violent incidents include mass shootings at Nairobi's Westgate Shopping Center in 2013 and a 2014 explosion at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. In 2014, the Peace Corps suspended its operations in Kenya due to security concerns, and the U.S. Embassy relocated some of its staff out of the country. The British government warns against travel to several areas, but pointedly excludes safari destinations, noting that 117,000 Brits visited Kenya in 2014. A decision not to go does likely hurt both locals and the animals in question, which, if unsupported by tourists, become easier prey for poachers.



DETAILS

Abercrombie & Kent CEO Geoffrey Kent grew up in Kenya, and the company has a long history of providing safaris in its own permanent luxury tents that bring visitors in safe proximity to animals, in comfort and style. **Contact:** 888.611.4711, abercrombiekent.com





Egypt

From the pyramids to Tahrir Square, the sweep of human history.



FROM THE
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM TO
TAHRIR SQUARE,
THE FULL SWEEP OF
HUMAN HISTORY IS ON
DISPLAY HERE.



REWARDS

Whether you've formed your visions of Egypt from the Bible, Shakespeare, Elizabeth Taylor or Indiana Jones, this is the place to realize the fantasy—floating on the Nile, visiting the Saqqara and Giza pyramids, gazing at the Sphinx, taking in the awe-inducing tombs and temples of the Valley of the Kings. From the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo, which displays King Tutankhamun's tomb artifacts, to Tahrir Square, where the 2011 Arab Spring gained momentum, the sweep of human history is on display here.



RISKS

Since the Arab Spring, Egypt has experienced political instability; leaders have been variously removed, installed, elected and sentenced to death. While anniversaries and new developments are met with protests that travelers can avoid by monitoring U.S. Embassy advisories, the terrorist threat in Egypt is not insignificant.

A major terrorist group in Egypt aligned itself with ISIS in 2014 and regularly targets Westerners and tourist destinations. Mindful of the importance of tourism to its economy, Egypt maintains heavy security in tourist areas, but attacks still happen: This summer, a car bomb destroyed a government security building in Cairo.

Some travelers engage private security to travel with them. "That's something we can accommodate," says Richard Harris of Abercrombie & Kent, which has been organizing travel to Egypt since 1982. "We also have guests who will send private security details ahead of them to check a place out."



DETAILS

Abercrombie & Kent's focus on exclusive access to popular attractions reduces exposure to crowded places. For instance, its Nile cruises occur on private yachts ranging in size from four to 40 cabins, all of which access attractions via private dock. **Contact:** 888.611.4711, abercrombiekent.com. **Pinkerton** offers travel security, including concierge services that provide safety recommendations on attractions, accommodations and restaurants. **Contact:** pinkerton.info@pinkerton.com, 800.724.1616, pinkerton.com/travel-protection-security