

# IN THE COUNTRY

## YOUR OWN PRIVATE AFRICA

Five years ago, when former bond trader Tee Faircloth took over the Kenya-based safari operation of Frank Maurice “Bunny” Allen, his goal was to revive the glory of the early-20th-century African safari. Allen was one of the last of the great hunters of his era to lead parties of gentlemen in search of big game in East Africa. But Faircloth knew just how to translate the image of those romantic treks for a new generation. He began organizing and outfitting luxury safaris all over Africa (minus the shooting) and selling upscale outdoor apparel and African antiques and campaign furniture from **F. M. Allen**, his Madison Avenue outpost, providing everything necessary for the modern-day Hemingway. Now stay-at-home adventurers have the chance to replicate the safari experience in their own backyard by purchasing the store’s custom-designed tents, which are hand-made in Nairobi, not far from the area Karen Blixen made famous in *Out*

*of Africa*. Constructed from earth-toned canvases using a technique that evolved over a century (which peaked in the 1920s and ’30s during what Faircloth calls “the heyday of the African safari”), the tents start at a cozy eight by twelve feet, though any size can be erected fairly easily. Others, though, are more permanent and challenge the very definition of a tent. For instance, a \$25,000 fifteen- by thirty-foot tent, fully equipped with a wall-enclosed bathroom, can accommodate a small family in exotic comfort, outfitted, perhaps, with Oriental rugs, a zebra throw and a mosquito-netted four-poster. These more ambitious shelters (which begin at \$15,000) can take three to six months to complete. One F.M. Allen client recently had a sleeping tent with an en suite bathroom put up on her property in Southampton, New York, so that she could awaken to the sight of the ocean peering through her mesh-flap door. 212-737-4374; [fmallen.com](http://fmallen.com). CATHLEEN MCCARTHY



## ROLLING ON THE RIVER

Kayaking is about the solo experience of piloting your own boat through waters that are often unreachable by other means. But the tranquillity that goes with such paddling is often compromised by the hassle of transport. **Folbot**, the venerable South Carolina-based folding-kayak company, has introduced its updated and fully portable Edisto model (from \$1,795), which can be put together and taken apart with relative ease (there are several variations of the model, too). All of its parts, including the paddle, fit neatly into two compact bags. Ideally, you carry the bags to the banks of a river or a pond and assemble the kayak on the spot (although the only tools you need are your hands, the first time you try this, it can be a bit tricky). But once the boat is unfolded and ready for the water, it’s smooth sailing in style. [folbot.com](http://folbot.com). LINDSAY CROUSE

PHOTOGRAPHS, FROM TOP: PETER FRANK EDWARDS; ALEX WALKER