

Likewise **ANTARCTICA**. It might be summer, but think now about securing your place to the Southern Continent; it opens up from November for four months only. New company White Desert ([www.white-desert.com](http://www.white-desert.com)) has been launched by the young polar adventurer Patrick Woodhead (in 2002 he kite-skied to the South Pole). Flying out of Cape Town, you touch down less than six hours later on an ice-blue runway. The camp is located in the shadow of the mountains of Dronning Maud Land; the chefs are South African; the guides include Paul Landry (possibly the world's most experienced polar guide) and the tents are based on that colonial style used on smart Kenyan safaris (but a whole lot more high-tech; temperatures during last year's austral summer were between  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Here you can kite-ski, skidoo and abseil, ice-climb and visit penguins. The zero-environmental impact 10-night stay costs about £16,000 per person (excluding international flights to Cape Town). That said, you can make a lot of your time here; there's 24-hour daylight.

