



April 2011

Kenya keeps it wild and wonderful

We took the same airline down to the Kenyan coast and over to the island of Lamu. I hadn't been there for over a decade and was intrigued, and a little fearful, of how it might have changed. Lamu Town, with its narrow maze of streets and bustling market was, refreshingly, little-altered. However, around it on both sides are a number of new, swanky hotels and glitzy private houses.

The Red Pepper House is the indescribably elaborate home of a Spanish interior design mogul. It's run as an exclusive boutique hotel - it has just five rooms - when he's not in residence. Set amid four hectares of leafy garden, with a pool, hugely attentive staff and a chef who can whisk up everything from chocolate croissants to sushi, it is the height of extravagant luxury, with a price-tag to match.



■ Red Pepper House, Coconut Beach, Lamu (00 254 20 251 3147; theredpepperhouse.com). Doubles start at US\$1,270 (£847), full board with activities.