

# COUNTRY LIFE<sup>®</sup> TRAVEL

Take  
the  
family



WINTER 2012/2013



## Streets ahead

TRAVEL operator Abercrombie & Kent recently launched a shop devoted to the best of travel in the heart of London. You can walk in and enjoy a drink as you peruse specially commissioned maps and choose your next adventure. Then, nestled in the comfort of a sofa, you can talk live from the shop to representatives based in your chosen destination, via Skype video link.

Once your plans are in place, you can even go downstairs and get kitted out—be it in ski gear, safari wear or even scuba kit. The next step is to get the appropriate jabs for your trip, which can be done in-house, as the team draws up your itinerary. If you're in a hurry, you can either speak to the team by telephone or drop in and tell them what you're after, and they'll be in touch with their ideas.

'Since A&K started 50 years ago, we have always pioneered new luxury travel experiences,' says founder and chairman Geoffrey Kent. 'This store does exactly that.'

*Abercrombie & Kent, 81/82 Cheapside, London EC2 (020-3667 7000; www.abercrombiekent.co.uk)*



You can plan your entire trip, from jabs to ski passes, in A&K's store



## Giraffe Manor expands its herd

THIS year, Kenya's Giraffe Manor (00 254 205 020 888; www.giraffemanor.com), has added four new Rothschild giraffes to its eight-strong herd. The endangered animals, three females and a male, were transported through Nairobi from a nearby wildlife conservancy to roam the lodge's 12 acres.

Every morning, the herd leans in through open windows for snacks

**Four new Rothschild giraffes will join guests for breakfast in Kenya**

from the guests. As a result, the lodge claims to be one of the only places where you can share your breakfast with a giraffe.

Mikey Carr-Hartley, who owns Giraffe Manor with his wife, Tanya, reports that 'all four giraffe have settled into their surroundings exceptionally well, and are now feeding with and kissing the public with the rest of the herd'.

### Best new hotels

**The Residence, Maldives.** Opened September 2012

**Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht Hotel,** Holland. Opened October 2012

**Banyan Tree Laguna Lang Co,** Thua Thien Hue Province, Vietnam. Opened November 2012

**Alpina, Gstaad.** Due to open December 2012

**Waldorf Astoria, Berlin.** Due to open February 2013

**Hotel Indigo, St Petersburg-**

Tchaikovskogo, Russia.

Opening April 2013

**Park Hyatt New York.**

Due to open late 2013



From far left **Kobo Vox eReader; PowerMonkey battery; Traveler binoculars; travel pillow**

### Gifts for the traveller

**EL 10x32 Traveler Binoculars,** £1,420, Swarovski (020-7193 4751; www.thesafaristore.co.uk)

**PowerMonkey eXplorer backup battery,** £64.99, (currently £49.99) Firebox (0800 044 5010; www.firebox.com)

**Prince of Wales travel pillow,** £75, Otis Batterbee for John Lewis (08456 049 049; www.johnlewis.com)

**Kobo Vox eReader,** £149.99, WH Smith (www.whsmith.co.uk)

