

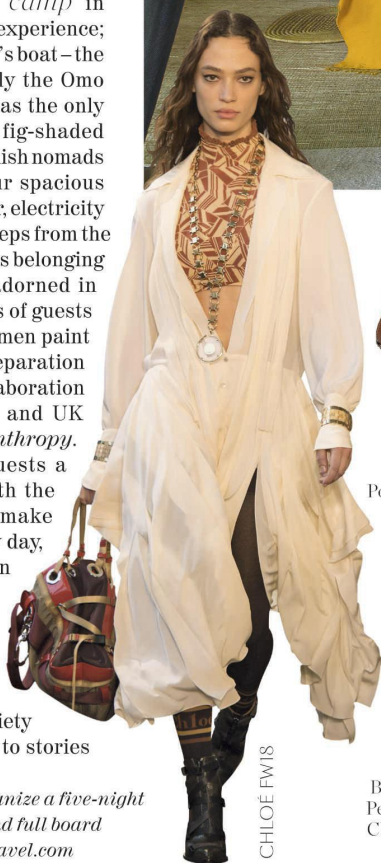
out of this world

THE WANDERLIST

Lale's Camp, Omo Valley, Ethiopia

The journey to this remote camp in Ethiopia's Omo Valley is part of the experience; the only way to get here is by the camp's boat – the sole vessel actually permitted to ply the Omo River. With its unique location, and as the only permanent base in the valley, this fig-shaded camp draws curious travelers and stylish nomads (such as Donna Karan) with its four spacious tents equipped with hot running water, electricity and flush toilets. The camp lies just steps from the village of Dus, one of three settlements belonging to the Kara community. Children adorned in colorful beads warmly grip the hands of guests and lead them to shore, where Kara men paint each other in charcoal stripes in preparation for an evening dance ceremony. A collaboration between Kara member Lale Biwa and UK charity WildPhilanthropy (wildphilanthropy.com) means the camp can give guests a chance to meet and spend time with the local people, inspiring guests to make donations to community projects. By day, you might observe Kara women preparing maize or visit the neighboring Hamar tribe. At night, sip sundowners on your tent's veranda, then head to the dining tent to enjoy local dishes such as *injera* – a spongy flatbread topped with a variety of meats and vegetables – and listen to stories of Biwa's childhood. *Jen Murphy*

NEED TO KNOW *Steppes Travel* can organize a five-night trip, including flights, boat transfers and full board meals from \$4,660 per person; steppestravel.com



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RECORD

Be sure to take a camera along to one of the many rituals the various Omo tribes hold, from stick fighting to bull jumping.

HIKE

Pull on your boots for a walk in Mago National Park, guided by local Kara villagers who are experts at spotting wildlife such as kudu, buffalo and onyx.

CRUISE

Bring binoculars on a river cruise in the Omo Valley – a birdwatcher's paradise – and spot the Pel's fishing owl, kingfishers and the Goliath heron.

EXPLORE

Pack a small overnight bag and sail three hours upriver to a fly camp set up near the Mursi tribe, known for their decorative scarification and ornate lip plates.

RELAX

Unwind with a yoga session in your tent, then grab a gin and tonic and watch the sun set from the hammock strung up by the riverbank.