

# Ultratravel

YOUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN ON EARTH

SPRING 2009

## THE NILE IN STYLE

Supermodel Elle Macpherson  
explores the land of the pharaohs



**COWBOY ADVENTURES**  
**LIFE-CHANGING SPAS**  
**CULTURAL CARIBBEAN**

**WIN A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO SINGAPORE**

ultravel

# DIRECTORY

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## SEEING THE LIGHT

**D**uring 2009, the Year of Astronomy, we're all going to be made more aware of the celestial whizzings above our heads.

On July 22, thousands will flock to China to view the longest total eclipse of the 21st century. At hotels in the few tracts of wilderness left on Earth, such as South Africa's glamorous Molori camp ([www.molori.co.za](http://www.molori.co.za)) and Explora's Hotel de Larache in Chile ([www.explora.com](http://www.explora.com)), the owners have installed private telescopes or observatories so guests can admire the skies from the darkness of the bush. Camps such as fashion designer Anna Trzebinski's Lemarti in Kenya ([www.cazenoveandloyd.com](http://www.cazenoveandloyd.com)) have set up stargazing tents in the middle of nowhere, with local guides to bring the night skies to life. And in the Middle East, excursions have been arranged into the desert sands so visitors can enjoy the starscape from the near-blackness of the Empty Quarter. The most exciting is Exosphere's Arabian Sky at Night package, with trips into the deep, dark basin of the Ghubrah Bowl with local astronomer Randall Penney (£8,360 for two, including flights and three nights in a suite at the Al Husn Hotel in Muscat; [www.exosphere.com](http://www.exosphere.com)). Beginner astronomers should pack the tiny SkyScout, a digital planetarium the size of a mini-video recorder, with an inbuilt GPS and database of over 50,000 stars and planets. All they then need do is to point it at a star and take in information about it, aurally and visually. [www.celestron.com/skyscout](http://www.celestron.com/skyscout), from \$199.



**Time to scope the scenery** In open spaces, telescopes are being dusted off to celebrate the Year of Astronomy