

TREETOPS HOTEL:

In a Kenya forest, an unusual hotel with a place in British history is reborn. It is "Treetops" - the jungle retreat where, on February the 5th, 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth the Second. The spreading of salt to attract the animals of the forest reminds us that this is a combination of hotel and game-watching post.

First built by a keen naturalist in 1932, in the top of a giant fig-tree, it has housed more than 8,000 visitors before Mau Mau terrorists burned it down in 1954. Now it has been rebuilt - and once again wild creatures have accepted it, as part of the landscape, occupied by humans who are apparently harmless and even profitable.

The new Treetops is bigger and better-equipped than the little wooden house which Princess Elizabeth and her husband visited. Their signatures may be seen in the game log which is kept in the bar, and the unique opportunity for watching Kenya's wild life in its natural surroundings is still the main reason why Treetops is so popular.

Game-watching continues even after dark - the animals seem to accept the big lamp quite happily as an extra moon.

Fourteen guests at a time can stay at the new Treetops. It costs anything from £5. to £12.15. a night - but the people who come to this strangest hotel in the world agree that it's worth it!