

CARRIER

THE PAPER

06

CARRIER.CO.UK

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO MEANINGFUL LUXURY EXPERIENCES

GRAND DESIGNS

Escapism through interiors

Discover new worlds
with design-led hotels

VITAMIN SEA

Mood-boosting beaches

The nurturing properties
of life on the coast

A THOUSAND MEMORIES

Unearth hidden secrets

Experience Iceland
off the beaten track

HIGHWAY HIGHLIFE

Hit the open road

Reclaim your freedom on
an American roadtrip





Welcome to CARRIER, *The Paper*

A change of scene is something that has been off the cards for what feels like forever, so it makes sense that we're now looking to hotels to provide a real escape from the monotony and routines of home. The unimaginable service, pampering spa, fine food and creative interiors – all a given. Hotels allow us to live without obligations for a short time, opening doors to new environments, new cultures and new experiences.

What's more, hotels make it possible for us to step away from our everyday selves. Travel's power to transform us is undoubtable. Over the past year, we've had time to reflect and set new goals – a holiday can be an opportunity to challenge ourselves, learn new skills and embark on experiences that reshape who we are.

Take a deep dive into the world's most sensational beaches and unearth the nurturing properties of the sea, sun and sand (p.14); transform the way you see the world by stepping into new and unfamiliar surroundings and learn from the people and wildlife you encounter there (p.10); and swap your home for another's as you sample the flavours, sights and sounds of some of the world's most secret spots (p.26).

So whether you're seeking a change of scene, a change of self, or both, discover how hotels make us feel more alive than home.

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FROM YOUR HOME, TO ANOTHER'S
Hotels that transcend hospitality

Be curious

For some of us, it's not enough to simply go somewhere new and merely soak it up. We're in pursuit of embracing a way of life outside of our own; we want to experience something that nurtures our curiosity and allows us to truly get under the skin of a destination.

Trust Carrier to deliver your wildest holiday dreams and reap the rewards of venturing outside of your comfort zone. We're here to pull off the impossible, and we'll spare you the logistics.



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Luxury selection

WHAT TO LOVE AND WHERE TO BE RIGHT NOW



The jewellery

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Almasika was launched in Chicago by Catherine Sarr, a jewellery designer who draws from global traditions and symbols to encapsulate one singular philosophy: finding what we have in common with others. Her latest collection, Sagesse, is a sculptural collection of ancient shapes representing traditional wisdom. At the centre of the collection are three talismans: Veni, Vidi, Vici. They draw from deep cultural references, from the sign of protection in Africa to that of patience in ancient Egypt. The union of these in one collection gathers centuries-old knowledge to help guide us through the modern world.

From \$850, Almasika, almasika.com



Fendi
Fendi Bold | £370
fendi.com



Parley for the Oceans
Clean Waves Archetype 01 | £200
selfridges.com



Bloobloom
Soulmate glasses | £95
bloobloom.com



Dolce & Gabbana
Print family sunglasses | £219
dolcegabbana.com



Tom Ford
Tina sunglasses | £350
tomford.com

The sunglasses

FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Look at the world in a new light with these spectacular sunnies



The décor

ESCAPE FROM REALITY

Bring your holidays home with Gucci's intricate and fantastical wallpaper designs. Tigers prowling through mysterious tropical jungles, herons floating through pink dreamlands and birds fluttering in floral gardens, absorb yourself in epic new scenery in the comfort of your house.

The artwork has been inspired by Gucci's ready-to-wear collections, from Italian artist Vittorio Accornero's designs for Princess Grace of Monaco in the 60s to Creative Director of Gucci Alessandro Michele's motifs and patterns.

Gucci Décor, from £365, [Gucci, gucci.com](http://Gucci.com)





The Insider

CHANGE OF SCENE, CHANGE OF SELF

Location, location, location – changing your surroundings is proven to have a lasting effect on our mental health and wellbeing.

Here's how:



1

INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY

Being around plants, animals and natural landscapes can boost your heart rate and blood pressure, driving productivity.

2

IMPROVES BRAIN ABILITIES

Stepping outside your comfort zone helps to support your brain's neuroplasticity, helping it repair old neural connections or create new ones.

3

CHANGES HABITS

Altering your environment can reduce and slowly eliminate bad habits and introduce new, healthy ones with the help of therapists, experts and coaches.

4

BOOSTS MOOD

New colours, textures, sights and sounds can trigger new emotions and help boost happiness.

5

IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH

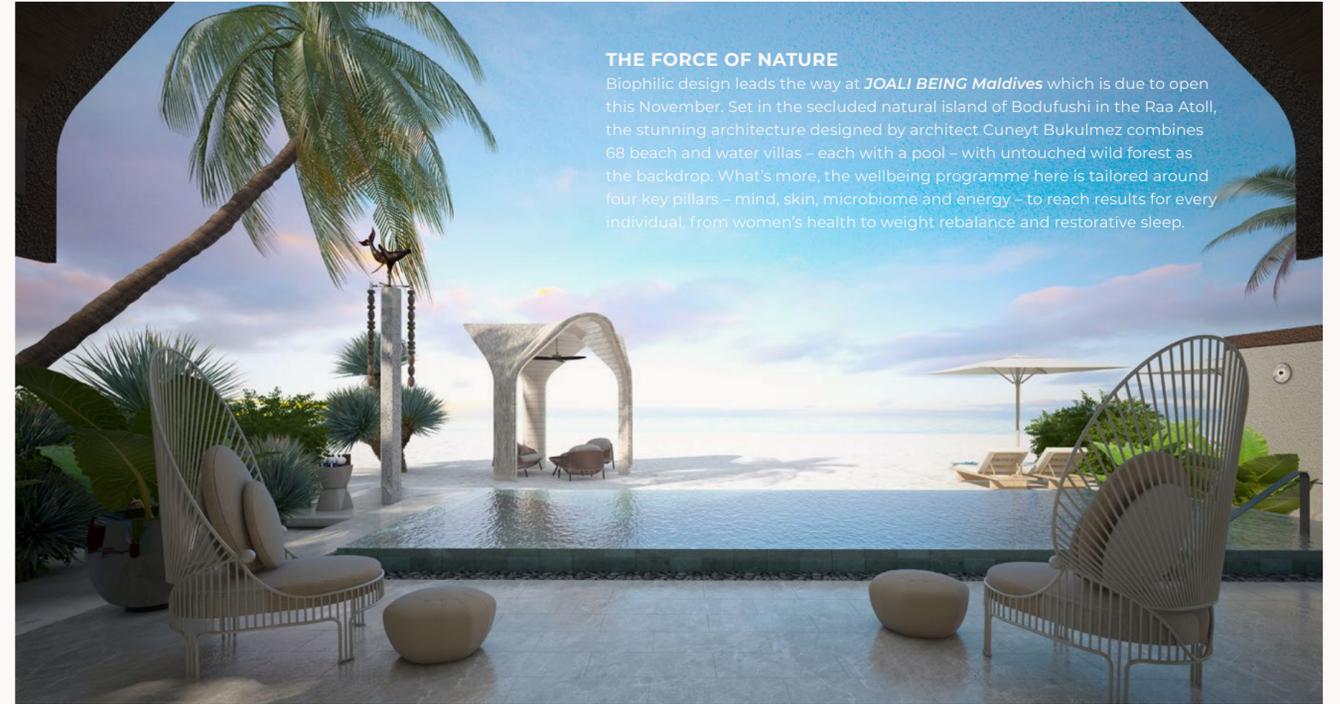
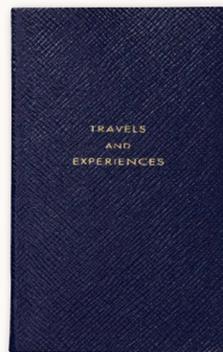
Swapping a cityscape for a calming beach or a wild jungle will help you feel more alive and energised, and reduce feelings of anxiety.

The journal

TAKE NOTE

Most of us take photos of everything, from the meals we eat to the mountains we climb, but sometimes it's hard to recall the emotions and feeling from one image. Document your new-found freedom in Smythson's new collection of notebooks, which playfully celebrate our rediscovery of the world around us. Record your challenges, describe your ups and downs, or simply regale cheerful tales in notebooks aptly named: 'make it happen', 'swings and roundabouts', and 'happiness'.

Titled Notebooks, from £52, Smythson, smythson.com



THE FORCE OF NATURE

Biophilic design leads the way at **JOALI BEING Maldives** which is due to open this November. Set in the secluded natural island of Bodufushi in the Raa Atoll, the stunning architecture designed by architect Cuneyt Bukulmez combines 68 beach and water villas – each with a pool – with untouched wild forest as the backdrop. What's more, the wellbeing programme here is tailored around four key pillars – mind, skin, microbiome and energy – to reach results for every individual, from women's health to weight rebalance and restorative sleep.

SPA AND SEA

Celebrity Cruises has a third ship to add to their Celebrity Edge series: **Celebrity Beyond**. The impressive structure has been designed to bring a closer connection between you, the sea, and the adventures beyond. To deepen this connection further, the AquaClass Sky Suites are an inviting cocoon of comfort mixing spa facilities with indulgent interiors. Flop into a king-sized bed, curl up in a Frette bathrobe, take in the views on a private veranda and indulge in complimentary access to the spa services, including the Sea Thermal Suite and a personal consultation.



A MODERNIST MARVEL

Another resort opening in November is the **LUX* Grand Baie Mauritius**. The resort has teamed up with British designer, Kelly Hoppen, to curate calming colour palettes for an array of suites and villas. Be seduced by the slow pace of island life on the Bisou rooftop, which is decked out with an infinity pool, bar, and restaurant overlooking the expansive ocean. After some quiet stargazing, liven up your evening at the nightclub Ai KISU with Asian inspired drinks and dishes.



RESTORATIVE ISLAND LIFE

This October, **Rosewood Le Guanahani St Barth** is opening a new haven of casual luxury and comfort in the Caribbean. Every element of this resort has been designed to take in the surroundings to ensure a stay here reaps all the rewards. Cottages are scattered along garden paths that wind through lush bougainvillea, hibiscus, and palms with views of sweeping beaches and the reef-protected lagoon. Make the most of the tropical terrain with an array of watersports, the Rosewood Explorers club for kids and a championship tennis court.



The News Flash
TRAVEL UPDATES

New designs and unique destinations combine for the ultimate escape



RECHARGE IN BERMUDA

Slow down and stop the clock at the recently opened **The St Regis Bermuda Resort**. Swap high-paced and anxious days in the office with languorous afternoons around the infinity pool. Sprawl across cushioned lounge chairs with a cocktail in hand and revel in slow dinners overlooking the ocean. Start your evening the right way with the St. Regis ritual of sabering. Inspired by Napoleon Bonaparte, who famously opened champagne with his sword, you can watch bubbles flow in the most lavish of ways and make sure you have a glass to celebrate.



"I wasn't active at all when I started my journey! Start by finding something that excites you, something you love"



LIFE LESSONS WITH

SOPHIE RADCLIFFE

Sophie Radcliffe is an endurance athlete, inspirational speaker, adventurer and blogger. She has cycled 300km from London to Paris in 24 hours on nine occasions, raced her bike coast to coast across America, completed 100km ultra-marathons, and is a two-time Ironman. At just 36 years old, she's achieved so much. We find out what lessons she has learnt along the way.

How do different landscapes affect you emotionally and physically?

As a Londoner, the wilderness is an antidote to city life where it's all go-go-go. My first ever adventure race was through the jungle of Borneo called the Kinabalu Challenge, and I've explored the Alpine coast across Italy, France and Monaco, covering 1700km on bike, 151km on foot and 45,500m uphill over 32 days.

I love exploring and adventuring in remote places; standing on top of a mountain with 360-degree views, the wind blowing around me, the vast expanse of wilderness stretching out ahead of me. It opens my mind and feeds my soul. I feel alive, present and confident in myself and my place in the world.

How important is it to challenge ourselves?

I believe that on some level, we all want to be confident, courageous and resilient in who we are and how we live our lives. In a time of crisis, you discover more about your mindset, internal dialogue and beliefs. Once we develop these strengths, we can draw on them whenever we need to back ourselves if times are tough.

How does action and adventure provide meaning and wellbeing in your life?

Adventure was never part of my life growing up in London. I wasn't sporty at school and I didn't go camping or hiking with my family. It's something I discovered in my early 20s in my first job out of university (in sales for a London start-up). I felt boxed in by the corporate life and was trying to figure out who I really was and what I was capable of achieving. I decided to get fit and set myself a challenge. I signed up for the Borneo adventure race and the experience changed the whole trajectory of my life!

Eight years later I quit my job leaving behind a life of security and opened myself up to a life of adventure, purpose, passion and uncertainty. You can't always plan the moments that will change you or your perspective, but for many people these moments happen through travel, adventure and challenge.

What can you recommend to people who aren't so active by nature?

Don't be afraid to try a few things out, even on your own. If you wait for someone to come with you, you may miss out. You could make new friends and find a community that supports your dreams and goals. You could have amazing adventures and discover new places, passions or talents. The world really is your oyster, but nothing's going to make it happen unless you grab hold of the opportunities and run with them!

What is your greatest piece of advice for people?

You've got one life, live it! Don't waste your life letting your fears and limiting beliefs hold you back and stopping you from doing things you really want to do. There are no rules to this journey of life. You can do it anyway that feels right to you and you can tear up the rule book at any time. It's never too early or too late to start over. Just start today.

How will you be embracing your new-found freedom after Covid?

TrailBlazers – my youth empowerment programme – has been on hold over Covid so I will be kickstarting that. It encourages teenage girls to build more confidence and courage through adventures. However, across everything I do, my mission is to champion ordinary people in achieving extraordinary things. My biggest passion is helping other people on their journey – through travel and adventure – to discover all the amazing potential that each of us have.

Find out more about Sophie at: www.challengesophie.com and on Instagram @challengesophie



PERFORMANCE WITH PURPOSE

TUMI REGENT STREET & TUMI.COM

A fresh *perspective*

Whether you want to be put through your paces on an anti-poaching patrol of the Cambodian rainforest or capture the wildlife that roams the cushioned tundra of the polar region on camera, learning a new skill in these awe-inspiring destinations will prove to be a truly transformative experience

Words: *Lauren Romano*

The late essayist Arthur Christopher Benson once said: “very often a change of self is needed more than a change of scene.” But perhaps the two are more intertwined than would first appear.

Certainly, jaw-dropping panoramas alone aren't always enough to alter the way you feel deep down. But the act of stepping into new and unfamiliar surroundings has the power to uproot you spiritually and emotionally – and transform

the way you view the world. By splashing through the shallows of a secluded beach on a Sumba horse or foraging for mangosteens in the jungle, you might start to think differently.

By taking the opportunity to connect with the landscape and learn from the people and wildlife you encounter there, you'll come away with a better understanding of yourself and how to reach your highest potential. Here are five of the most transformative experiences to kickstart your quest for personal growth....



1 TAKE A RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE

From the hypnotic sight of surf crashing onto the shore to the rhythmic canter of horses clipping the sand, a visit to *NIHI Sumba*, a remote slice of paradise in *Indonesia's* necklace of idyllic islands, will sharpen all your senses. Situated on the 'edge of wildness', the eco lodge, is mostly untouched by the modern world, meaning peace and serenity reign supreme.

Without the noise and distractions of everyday life, you can centre yourself firmly on the present and let your curiosity run wild. And what better way to do so than by swimming with the island's aforementioned native horses like local tribes have done for centuries? Riding bareback on these majestic creatures, feeling every muscle flex as they wade weightlessly through the ocean is a truly magical, humbling encounter. As the swell causes their hooves to rise steadily from the ocean bed, you'll find yourself floating, the warm waters ebbing and flowing around you. What could be more invigorating for mind, body and soul?

JOIN THE CONSERVATION FRONT LINE IN CAMBODIA

The adventure begins the moment you arrive at *Bensley Collection - Shinta Mani Wild*, a riverside retreat and conservation project deep in the heart of Cambodia's rainforest, courtesy of a zip line that propels you 380 metres over foaming waterfalls far below.

And if that doesn't give you an adrenalin rush, hurtling through the rainforest on a motorbike with the local anti-poaching patrol will. Stamina-dependent, these exhilarating and vital expeditions can last anywhere from two to six hours, during which you'll help the rangers defend the surrounding habitat and the wildlife that calls it home.

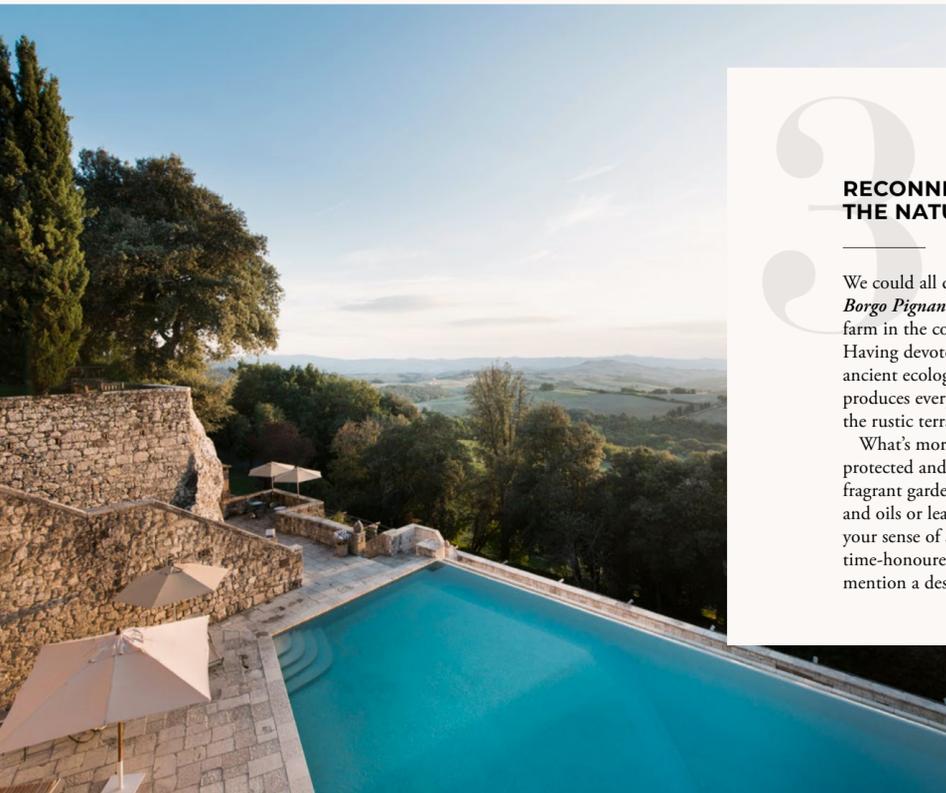
With some of the world's most endangered species on its doorstep, Shinta Mani Wild is committed to protecting the vast river valley from poaching, mining and logging, and its hands-on approach to conservation means you can make a real contribution to reclaiming land that is the beating heart of the region. Bird watching, hiking and mountain biking all add to a colourful feast for the senses and underscore the role of the forest in providing for creatures great and small, leaving you energised to play a more active role in protecting the planet.



RECONNECT WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

We could all do with a slice of la dolce vita from time to time, and at *Borgo Pignano*, an 18th-century villa ensconced on a bucolic organic farm in the countryside of *Tuscany*, a taste of the good life is guaranteed. Having devoted the best part of two decades to restoring the region's ancient ecology to how Mother Nature intend it to be, the 750-acre estate produces everything from the olive oil used in its restaurant to the soaps in the rustic terracotta-tiled bathrooms.

What's more, you can play a part in ensuring the environment is protected and supported. This might mean foraging for flora in the fragrant gardens with the resident herbalist to concoct your own perfumes and oils or learning how bees are cared for. All of which should rekindle your sense of stewardship and leave you with a better understanding of the time-honoured practices that keep the delicate ecosystem in check – not to mention a desire to push yourself to live a more sustainable life.



CONNECT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Think safari in the *Maasai Mara*, think Big Five game drives, stalking lions and wide, panoramic plains filled with herds of grazing zebra and giraffe. While all these elements are part of a stay at the intimate *Cottar's Camp*, so too is learning about the four Cs – conservation, culture, commerce and community.

The camp is on a mission to create a more purposeful safari; one that will leave you with a greater understanding of the unique biodiversity of the bush and the efforts made to ensure a positive impact on both landscape and the local community. Spend time with the only all-female conservation ranger unit in the Maasai Mara, take part in a seed dispersal bushwalk or learn about the culture and responsibilities of the Maasai community. You'll be able to hear first-hand from those who live and work in this awe-inspiring destination and connect with them on a deeper level, forging memories that last long after your head hits the pillow back at the luxurious 1920s-inspired base camp.

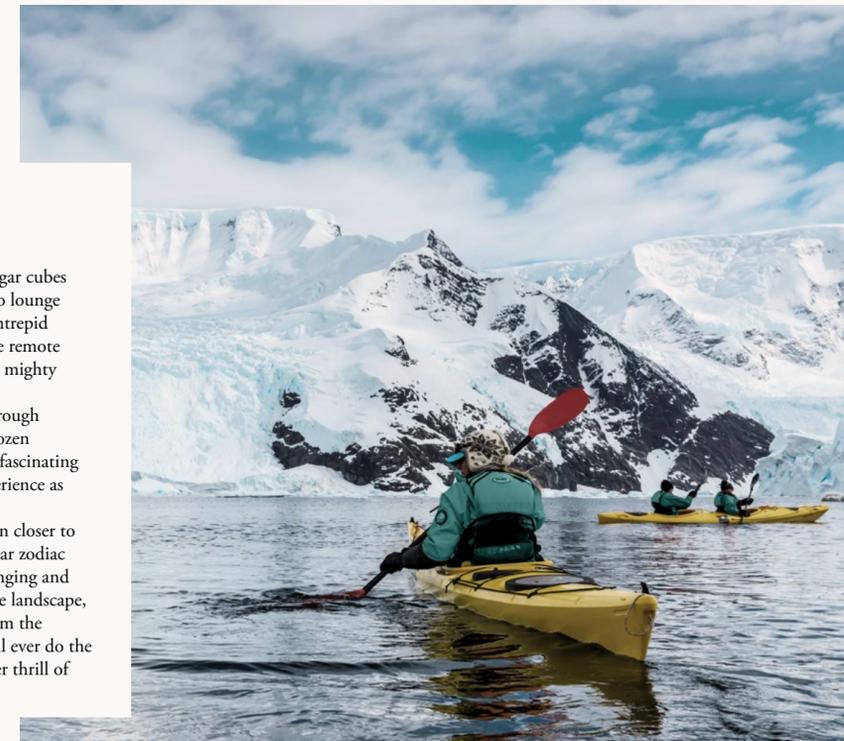
After all, isn't that what personal growth is all about? So why not take a leap of faith: immerse yourself in the unfamiliar, and you'll soon come to appreciate all that this wondrous world has to offer, and your place in it.

SET SAIL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

How many people can say they've spied icebergs bobbing along like sugar cubes in the distance, or moustachioed walrus bellowing as they haul out to lounge on their blubber-packed bellies? *Swan Hellenic* cruises take the most intrepid of explorers to the furthest-flung corners of the polar region – from the remote Russian and Norwegian archipelago at the top of the world to Siberia's mighty Yenisei River.

Expeditions give front-row seats to sights straight out of an Attenborough documentary – prowling polar bears hunting moulting ringed seals; frozen landscapes strewn with whalebones – with experts on hand to provide fascinating insights into the terrain and the wildlife encountered, making the experience as enriching and wondrous as possible.

Lectures will leave you craving adventure – and the ability to get even closer to the enthralling frozen realm beyond your cabin window. Luckily, regular zodiac outings, polar kayaking and trekking expeditions should satisfy this longing and provide a visceral way to gauge the magnitude and hostile beauty of the landscape, which you'll be able to capture in all its glory thanks to a little help from the shutterbugs at the onboard photography lab. Then again, no photo will ever do the surroundings justice, so why not ditch the camera and bask in the sheer thrill of being at the ends of the earth, feeling so insignificant yet so alive.



A dose of vitamin sea

It's proven that the nurturing properties of the sea, sun and sand can improve your mood, sleep, creativity and relaxation. So, take a deep dive into the world's most sensational beaches to boost your mind, soul and senses and open your eyes to the things that matter most

Words: Hannah Lemon



THE SOOTHING BLUES

As your feet touchdown on the sand at *The Brando* in *French Polynesia*, the view of the private island of Tetiaroa is certain to take your breath away. As far as the eye can see, there is a medley of blues from the brightest azure to the purest cornflower and it's an instant tonic for relaxation. It's no wonder staring at the ocean has been proven to change the frequency of brainwaves and ignite a mild meditative state. With miles of pristine nature, sea turtles, manta rays and exotic birds, this remote turquoise paradise is perfectly placed to rejuvenate the soul.



ENGAGE THE SENSES

At *Amanyara* in *Turks and Caicos*, beach life is centred around new sights, smells, tastes, and sounds within the secluded shores of an 18,000-acre nature reserve. Take in the bright corals as you help preserve marine life, absorb the soft heat on your skin from a hot stone massage in the wellness sanctuary, and delight in succulent seafood mixed with the fresh salt of the ocean air during an al fresco evening meal on the sand. By enhancing the senses, you will invigorate your brain and reprogramme to this new way of being.

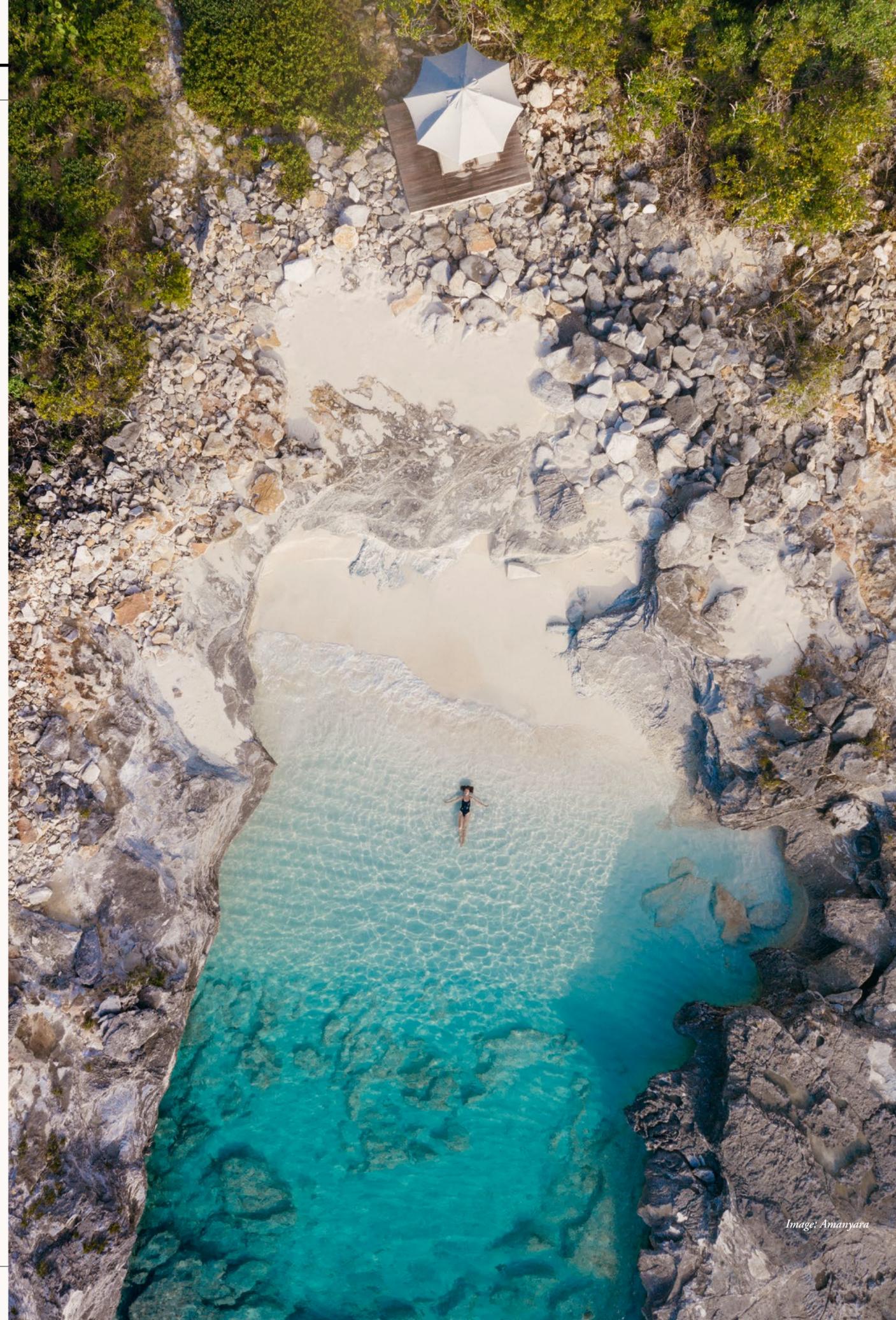


Image: Amanyara



PRACTISING MINDFULNESS IN MEXICO

Focus on your inner self on the private beach of *Hotel Esencia* – a home away from home in *Mexico*. Originally built as the secluded house of an Italian duchess, this private retreat is hugged by the Yucatan jungle. Welcome each morning with a complimentary sunrise yoga session followed by a refreshing juice made from local fruits. Then in the evening, feel your mind and muscles relax with the comforting sip of a smoky glass of mezcal around an open bonfire. You'll return home free of stress, swaying to the gentle rhythm of the tropics.



CALMING OCEAN VIEWS

Research shows that people who have rooms with ocean views feel calmer than those without. That's reason enough to check-in to *Miavana* in *Madagascar* where world-renowned designers Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens have created 14 villas dotted along the pristine African beach. The rooms are designed to connect the inside with the outside, with elements of the sea, sand and air reflected through hand-dyed turquoise textiles, Malagasy wood and local stone. Soak in a private pool on your oceanfront deck. Soak in a private pool on your oceanfront deck to take in the views, while a personal butler is at your beck and call to settle you into island life and free your mind of worries.

TOTAL TRANQUILITY

Sometimes the sound of silence is all we need to switch off from the distractions of the modern world and the stresses that come with it. *D Maris Bay* is a hidden paradise in *Turkey* surrounded by five unique beaches, each with its own soothing secrets. Take a nap under a beach cabana or float in a day bed set over the water on Silence Beach's tiny pier. No phones, no emails, no distractions – just nature at its purest. Feel your spirit revitalise as the Mediterranean works its magic.



THE SOUND OF THE SEA

The soothing ripple of waves across the ocean can de-stimulate the brain and slow us down. At *LUX* North Ari Atoll* they are masters at helping you feel relaxed and more engaged in the *Maldives* where relaxing by the water is part of daily life. Listen to the sea lapping against your private boat as you learn to sail a catamaran along the crystal waters or take it up a notch with the exhilarating thump of a jet ski and the boundless blue as your playground.



LIFT YOUR MOOD

Time on the beach can boost your self-esteem, making you feel happier and less isolated. Walking along the shoreline at *North Island* in the *Seychelles* is sure to transform your outlook, especially with the resident island ecologist guiding you. Afterwards, restore your happiness with a private picnic on the sand or retire to your villa for a soothing siesta. Each suite has been handcrafted by Seychellois and African craftsmen from wood, local stone and glass. The private pool will give you ample space to while away the hours with nothing but a book and the spirit-lifting sunshine for company.

Highway highlife

Free yourself from the monotony of everyday life as you hit the road on the ultimate Californian road trip and follow your heart's desires on a journey curated just for you

Words: David Taylor

Stretching 900 miles up the Pacific Coast of the United States, California offers a plethora of experiences that transport you to another world: from the giant redwoods of Yosemite, to the glitz and glamour of West Hollywood, and the scarcely-believable ocean views along Big Sur. The best way to explore this diverse and stunning landscape? On the open road.

Travelling by four wheels offers unbounded freedom and a way for you to have complete control over what you do with your time, whether that's lying back and drinking in the views or seeking out secret haunts to sample local delicacies. From *Little Miss Sunshine* to *Thelma & Louise*, there is a reason why films have drawn on America's vast landscape as a way to discover things we never knew about ourselves.

Embark on a journey that will test your mettle, provide thrilling vistas and offer up experiences that will open a new chapter of adventure. This is a personal trip, a journey that can be crafted around you and the things you've missed most. Whether that's the sound of the ocean, the calming backdrop of a forest or the buzz of a city, take this time to nurture personal connections with people from different cultures. Reclaim your freedom and buckle up: California awaits.

SUNSETS, STARDOM AND SCENIC VIEWS

Speaking of epic movies, Los Angeles is the home to stars of film, music and all things golden, and if you're travelling south to north it's a place that is sure to ignite your spirit of adventure. The sprawling metropolis is a vast space to navigate, with everything from the famous Sunset Strip that has welcomed some of the world's biggest bands, from *The Doors* to *Guns N' Roses*, to the literary Hollywood haunts frequented by writers such as Dorothy Parker and F Scott Fitzgerald.

However, try diverting from the hustle and bustle of the city to uncover a different perspective. A private hiking tour up to the iconic Hollywood sign will open up breathtaking views over LA and Burbank and open up your eyes to the journey that awaits. Time it as dusk falls so you can marvel at the sparkle of the buildings below.

STAY HERE FOR... awe-inspiring views of tinseltown

Exude Hollywood glamour by the rooftop pool at *The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills* in a cabana with a signature Pink Lady cocktail. Afterwards, retire to one of the suites, the largest in LA no less, and enjoy an indulgent soak in the spa-like tub without a care in the world.



THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED

After you've had your fill of stardom, it's time to head away from the city and onto the magnificent Pacific coastal roads of Big Sur. On the tarmac, with no ties, recapture the sense of freedom that you might have lost in the confines of the city. A drive along California's Highway 1 will bring you closer and closer to this heavily-preserved stretch of coastline. Enjoy it at your own pace and in your own time – with only your heart's desires leading the way.

As you take in some of the last unspoiled places in America, you can bring the storytelling to life with a tour of Hearst Castle. The national landmark, built by publishing tycoon William Randolph Hearst and architect Julia Morgan, is home to 127 acres of gardens and terraces. Bowers of magenta bougainvillea, sweet-smelling hyacinths, and rhododendrons offer a sensory overload, with colours, scents and sights coming into sharp focus. Unlock the secrets here with a private tour, and discover the stars who used to steal away for an illicit rendezvous amongst the flora.

STAY HERE FOR... an escape from reality

Peace and healing are central to *Post Ranch Inn*, which sits on a clifftop overlooking the Pacific. There's no television or phone signal – instead, yoga, meditation and a telescope to look into the crystal-clear skies of Big Sur, a freeing and exhilarating view of pure oblivion that's hard to beat.

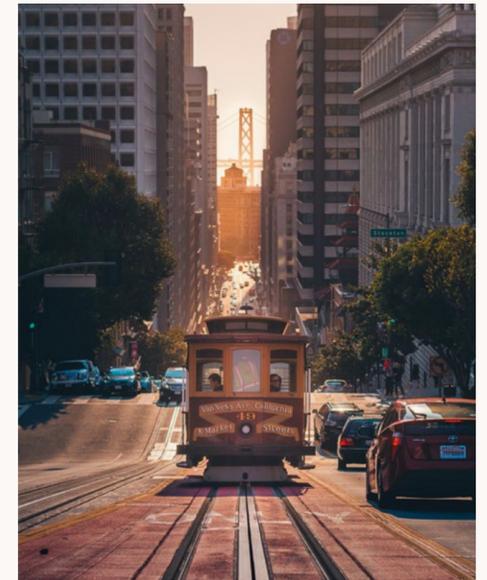
INLAND WONDERS

After Big Sur, meander through Carmel and Monterey and head inland from one natural wonder to the next. Yosemite National Park will ignite childish wonder with its ancient, towering sequoias and titanic granite cliffs, such as the world-renowned El Capitan and Half Dome. The park is another world, a place to truly escape the monotony of recent times and find pleasure in the simple, powerful forces of nature.

Experience this at its height by throwing yourself down the rapids with a white water rafting excursion. Feel the exhilarating bumps as you hurtle down the water, and listen to the rush and bubble of water as you navigate the river.

STAY HERE FOR... the royal treatment

The Yosemite home of presidents and royalty since 1920, soak up the grandeur of *The Ahwahnee* banquet hall with 30 foot high ceilings and massive windows to take in the surrounding views.



SAN FRAN DELIGHTS

Next up, San Francisco: it's easy to recognise from the classic silhouette of the Golden Gate Bridge and steep, rolling streets populated by traditional streetcars, but discover a new side to the city with an evening tour of the notoriously inescapable Alcatraz. Satisfy your hunger for drama with a thrilling evening inside the prison, discovering ghost stories, tall tales of escape plans and hidden messages.

STAY HERE FOR... location, location, location

Fairmont San Francisco transforms small moments into lasting memories with views of the City and the Bay from high atop Nob Hill, a place that has exuded romance and spectacle since the Golden Age of cinema.

WINE COUNTRY

It would be remiss to visit California without taking in some of the state's most celebrated produce: a visit to Wine Country is a fascinating experience that will leave your tastebuds tingling. Steer clear of the well-trodden paths of Napa Valley and embrace the laid-back lifestyle of Sonoma Valley.

This region is twice the size of Napa and contains over 425 wineries. Live without obligations as you hike past towering redwood trees and meander through small towns to be rewarded with a glass of a full-bodied vintage curated to your tastes and made with the love of local experts.

STAY HERE FOR... dishes bursting with flavour

The family-run *Farmhouse Inn* celebrates local produce with tastings run by winemakers and a menu that includes ingredients from master cheesemakers and skilled pâtissiers.



One picture, a thousand memories

A visit to a new land is so much more than sightseeing. It's about unearthing hidden secrets. Enhance your soul and test yourself with an abundance of unique Icelandic traditions and natural wonders

Words: Francesca Lee-Rogers

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page" said the renowned theologian St Augustine. This famed refrain reminds us that by going on new adventures, not only are we opening up our worlds and expanding our horizons, but we are actively welcoming new experiences and the excitement that goes beyond our typical everyday lives.

Known for its glaciers and volcanoes – Iceland is often referred to as 'the land of fire and ice'. The landscape is a sight to behold and can help to fuel our imaginations outside of the ordinary. While this piece of land might be famed for the magical Northern Lights that can be spotted from September through to mid-April, there is so much more to uncover on this sparsely populated Nordic island.

Witness the brightness of the midnight sun – a phenomenon where the sun never fully sets from mid-May to mid-August. With the sun in the sky for 24 hours, there are even more minutes in the day to push yourself with new challenges. Hop on horseback or hike up a glacier while watching the changing reds, pinks and purples that paint the sky.

Elsewhere on the south of the island, experience first-hand what a typical volcanic eruption is like at the Icelandic Lava Show. The show recreates a volcanic eruption by pouring molten lava (1100°C / 2000°F) into a showroom and over ice. It is an epic battle between the elements and a unique opportunity to safely see, hear and feel the intense heat of red hot lava up close. Located in Vík village, there's nowhere else you can experience two of the coolest and most natural phenomena's on earth; you'll realise that there's a bigger, more beautiful world out there.

Those who like to go off the beaten path can don their walking boots and trek to the spectacular two-tiered Langifoss waterfall, a sight not often mentioned in guide books. Feel the exaltation of a new adventure take over with every step and absorb in the history of the landscape. Afterwards revive your senses with a serene soak in the Sky Lagoon, where the geothermal lagoon meets with the dramatic Atlantic Ocean. Embark on a seven-step ritual based on the traditions of Icelandic bathing culture, rooted in wellness, wholeness and wonder, with cold pools, water mists, body scrubs and relaxing saunas.

For a unique insight into local life, the annual sheep round-up from early September until early October, named Réttir, is a must-do. As one of the country's oldest cultural traditions, Icelandic sheep farmers invite locals and visitors alike to the countryside to help out with rounding-up their flocks from their summer grazing period in the mountains and valleys. Afterwards, you can celebrate your new-found shepherding skills at the 'rounding-up' shindig, the Réttaball. Meet new people, hear new stories, and add more pages to your book of the world and its hidden secrets.

REST YOUR HEAD

Coming soon, *Six Senses Össurá Valley* will be a place for those who are passionate about nature, wellness and adventure by day, and indulgent dining, comfortable beds and the Aurora Borealis by night. The 70-guestroom resort and private cottages will be dotted on the surrounding land that will serve as a shining example of sustainable living. You can enjoy the facilities that include a yoga studio, fitness centre, farmhouse with an organic garden and a cooking school where chefs will showcase farm-to-table seasonal recipes.



Design intervention

Having spent the best part of the past year indoors, our collective longing for escapism feels more urgent than ever. Allow yourself to be transported to new worlds with design-led hotels created with an elevated experience in mind. We explore the philosophies behind these spaces that have been built to enhance and transform your outlook on life

Words: Ellen Millard

Wanderlust strikes when we feel a desire for change – when we want to discover something new and exciting beyond the boundaries of our daily lives. A source of escapism – both emotionally and physically – hotels have the power to be transformative, providing a space in which to reset, rise to new challenges and discover something truly incredible. From breathtaking locations to mood-boosting colour palettes, the world’s leading hoteliers are striving to create spaces that elevate your experience at every turn. All you need to do is leave reality at the door – there’s plenty to discover beyond it...

REFLECTING THE LANDSCAPE

The best way to get away from it all is to literally get away from it all. Hugged by the rolling hills of the Banks Peninsula and the glistening Pacific Ocean, the working farm and four luxury villas that make up *Annandale* in *New Zealand* are so secluded they could be on another planet. Touch down at the cedar-clad beach house *Scrubby Bay* after a spectacular helicopter flight that takes in the criss-crossing cliff-top farm tracks and undulating landscape.

This is the destination for total privacy and relaxation, a place in which to lose track of time wandering along the coastline, skimming stones across the water and breathing in the salty sea air. Designed to maximise on the views with expansive windows and a large sun-drenched terrace, *Scrubby Bay* acts as an extension of the landscape, leaving you feeling enveloped by nature at every turn. With space for 14, it’s the perfect location for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of family and friendship, offering a fresh perspective with moments of calm and solitude alongside the gentle hubbub of communal laughter, story-telling and memories.



...a place in which to lose track of time wandering along the coastline, skimming stones across the water and breathing in the salty sea air



If you seek escapism in a warmer part of the world, nothing could be more thrilling than rising to the challenge of a safari on *Kenya's Laikipia plains*. *Segeza Retreat's Nay Palad Bird Nest* gives new meaning to close encounters. Forget about crowded jeep trails; this towering structure sleeps just two, taking the safari experience to new heights with a 360-degree bird's-eye-view of the surrounding wilderness. Following a wildlife drive or bush walk, take refuge on the nest-inspired open-air terrace, where champagne and a picnic dinner will be served overlooking the plains. Spend the night on the terrace under the stars and in the morning, rise from your slumber to the sound of wildlife beginning a new day; the sight of an elephant taking its morning drink will be one you'll never forget.

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It's this connection with the wilderness that offers therapeutic effects – relieving stress, increasing energy levels and restoring attention. From one corner of the globe to another, *Fogo Island Inn* is a striking architectural feat perched off the coast of *Canada* that offers similar environmental succour. Here you are a 15-minute drive away from civilisation, which means the floor-to-ceiling windows enjoy completely uninterrupted views of the moon-like landscape and the wild waves of the North Atlantic beyond.

The hotel's biggest draw is its relief from modern times; built on the principles of sustainability, the building is immersed in the landscape, and those who visit will feel their worries begin to fade as they reconnect with nature. The 43,000 square-foot Inn was designed by Newfoundland-born, Norway-based architect, Todd Saunders. It is perched on stilts to echo the temporary houses ancestral settlers used to build while they fished here before returning home.

Every aspect of your stay anchors you back to the island – whether it's the whitewashed decor that allows the dramatic views to steal the spotlight or the bespoke furnishings designed by local artisans. It brings you closer to discovering new adventures with ocean swims, self-guided hikes and beach walks, or even the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see whales, dolphins and seals flit beneath the waves.





Designers don't just use nature to inspire health and wellness individually, but also collectively in our efforts to support the planet. *Patina Hotel Maldives* in the *Fari Islands* is one of the country's most sustainable destinations, with a considered and informed design based on biophilic principles, a method of bringing humans and nature closer together.

Its eco-conscious ethos allows you to travel consciously, knowing that your stay will help protect the planet for future generations. You will feel nature's presence at all times, with materials such as wood, linen, rattan and natural fibres creating a synergy between the hotel and the island. Feel your worries ebb away through the wellbeing philosophy here: Flow. Through everything from natural spa treatments, engaging with the rhythms of the island, nutrition, deep sleep to ocean conservancy and enrichment, the wildlife and surrounds are embedded in every movement and breath you take.



Ingenuity and creativity can transport you to new worlds the moment you walk through a door, and at *Amanjiwo* in *Java, Indonesia*, the experience begins as soon as you step off the plane. There's no greater way to arrive at this retreat than a luxury train journey that takes you past vibrant paddy fields and countryside villages to the foot of the Menoreh Hills. Overlooking Borodubar, a sacred Mahayana temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Amanjiwo is an otherworldly escape. The stone terraces and large Javanese stone swimming pools are inspired by Borobudur and are as equally calming and tranquil. With views to the temple itself and the surrounding valley you'll be inspired to expand your knowledge of the area with visits to local villages and temples, a trek up the steep flanks of Mount Merapi, or a picnic and walk to Selogriyo, an 8th-century Hindu temple on the slopes of Mount Sumbing – the enchanting views will leave you in awe.



NATURE'S DETAILS

When we travel to see the world's most beautiful sights, we want to feel immersed in them at all times. This is the sentiment that interior designer Patricia Urquiola had in mind when creating *Il Sereno Lake Como*, which evokes a sense of place at every turn. Luxury living meets nature in this contemporary retreat, where a calming palette of green, blue and taupe recall the colours of the lake. Flooded with natural light and surrounded by a panoramic terrace, the Penthouse Suite is designed to lighten your mood and keep Lake Como in view at all times.

The interiors encourage you to see the water from a different perspective, perhaps from one of the hotel's exclusive boats or from the top of a mountain after a hike for a more challenging view. You can also soak up the scenery in the vertical garden, designed by esteemed botanist Patrick Blanc. The terrace is inspired by the colours and movement of Lake Como, with a sensitive design that enhances the already stunning setting. Linger here a while before you dine at the resident Michelin-starred restaurant.

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CREATIVITY INSPIRES EXCITEMENT

From the tropical and verdant Indonesian jungle, discover a new world at *Atlantis The Royal Resort* in *Dubai*. Treat yourself to the best view in town and sleep amongst the clouds in the Sky Terrace Suite, where floor-to-ceiling windows offer endless scenes of the Arabian Sea and Palm island.

Crafted by the world's leading designers, architects and artists, the suite features your very own expansive terrace and is the perfect spot to enjoy your morning coffee or evening cocktail.

Lounge by Cloud 22, the spectacular 90-metre infinity pool on the 22nd floor and eat your way around the world at the seven restaurants, each overseen by a celebrity chef and inspired by a different corner of the globe. When our daily lives begin to overwhelm, it's moments like these that give us release. We travel to find something new, something exciting, something beyond our wildest imaginations, and the right hotel, in the right location, can provide the escapism we all crave. Let go of reality – a whole new world is waiting for you.



From your home, to another's

Whether you're looking for a place to while away the morning in bed or a private sanctum to return to after a day of exploring different worlds, certain places possess an air that allows them to transcend hotel status and become homes

Words: Marianne Dick

There's something comforting about staying in a place where everyday tasks are taken care of and you can relax into your most unencumbered self – one that is fully open to transformative experiences. Swap your home for another's and discover new flavours, sights and sounds in some of the world's most secret spots.

FROM YOUR KITCHEN, TO ANOTHER'S

Our sense of taste has the power to stir nostalgia and transport us to a significant memory in just seconds. At *Capella Bangkok*, Chef Lek reminisces about his own personal journey on a gastronomic tour of the bustling and creative Charoenkrung Road. Taste all manner of delights from the 'hole-in-the-wall' restaurants that have shaped his palate and then learn with Lek in an intimate cookery demonstration, where he shares one of his grandmother's secret recipes. After such an experience, flavours become enriched with feelings, and textures carry all kinds of tales.

FROM YOUR BEDROOM, TO ANOTHER'S

What makes the Meadow Suite in New York's *Crosby Street Hotel* so spellbinding is the contrast between its serene interiors and the bustling streets of SoHo below. The suite is perched on the second floor and boasts the floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that are synonymous with downtown New York. However, these particular windows and doors don't look out onto the pavement... Instead, they lead to a secret sylvan garden that's all yours, awash with lush, tumbling fauna. From al fresco breakfasts to pre-dinner toasts, the Meadow Suite makes for a Big Apple city break like no other and is a bedroom you'll never want to leave.



From top left: Capella Bangkok - Chef Lek, Crosby Street Hotel -The Meadow Suite, Amanjena - tea, The Datai Langkawi - Suite balcony, Four Seasons Camp Golden Triangle - Deluxe Tent



FROM YOUR FAMILY, TO ANOTHER'S

Amanjena in Marrakech is nestled within Morocco's diverse geography, with ocean expanses, desert dust, and mountain ranges all within easy reach, but they've found another way you can explore the true essence of this magical destination – by visiting a local Berber family in their home. The family will welcome you with open arms, share tea, a tagine, and insights into their everyday lives before embarking on a trip to the local market and perhaps even a hike. And when you return to the hotel for years to come, you can reunite with the family, forming an even deeper bond and understanding of the culture.

to rest among the tall trees that hum with the tranquil rustles of exotic fauna – a hike here will lead to a secret waterfall or a white-sand beach. With such epic glimpses into nature, the magnitude of it will make for a humbling and restorative experience.

FROM YOUR STREET, TO ANOTHER'S

Whether it's the confluence of a river or the area where countries overlap, the point at which two places meet is often considered significant and, at times, rather moving. *Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle* can be found where Thailand, Burma and Laos converge, among unspoiled wilderness, languorous rivers and majestic mountains. The bedroom window that overlooks busy streets back home is replaced with raised tented suites overlooking endless grasslands where elephants roam – a vista reminiscent of silver screen adventures – promising a stay that is both memorable and meditative.

FROM YOUR GARDEN, TO ANOTHER'S

A stay at *The Datai Langkawi* is like being dropped into a botanical garden of dreams. Perched on the north-west tip of the Malaysian island, the grounds of this halcyon hotel are made up of the deep green rainforest that surrounds it. Stay in one of the canopy rooms

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