

EDEN GEOGRAPHIC

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

ISSUE NINE



islands of adventure

EDEN's Travel Directors island-hop around Antigua, St Barths, Anguilla, Nevis and St Kitts and discover just what it is that makes each idyllic Caribbean isle so unique.

best in class

Six Senses adds two more resorts to its portfolio... An enigmatic Saudi Arabian oasis, Six Senses Southern Dunes; and immersive Maldivian experiences at Six Senses Kanuhura.

safari lodges of south africa

Head out into the South African bush with EDEN and experience the ultimate in luxurious lodges, bodacious backdrops, captivating culture and a world of wondrous wildlife.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2023 Autumn/Winter edition of EDEN Geographic – our guide to the best winter getaways, destination inspiration and new hotels for 2023 and beyond.

Packed full of tales from our Travel Directors' most recent adventures, you'll find insights on our favourite five-star hotel offerings in the Caribbean; the perfect itinerary for visiting the treasures of Egypt; and the low-down on two brand-new resort openings from Six Senses Hotels and Resorts in the Maldives and Saudi Arabia. Plus, why Oman and the Maldives is a prime pairing for those looking for culture and complete relaxation; and three of our favourite South African lodges, from the famous Kruger National Park to Thornybush Private Game Reserve.

With autumn on the horizon, our team at EDEN are here to help you find the consummate holiday for you and your loved ones. So, whether you fancy an island-hopping adventure across the Aegean and Ionian seas, going remote and exploring the USA's enchanting national parks, heading off on a far-flung family escape, or taking a quick city break to one of Europe's most fashionable cities, our highly experienced Travel Directors are on hand to ensure you have the best holiday ever.

Our very best wishes,

The EDEN Team



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Oman's natural assets make this unassuming desert realm one of the hottest tickets around. Add to that a stay in the mesmeric Maldives and you've got the perfect blend of recreation and repose.

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Leave the winter blues behind and head to one of our favourite spots south of the equator... Not only will you get the chance to shed a layer or two, you're also guaranteed the most awesome adventures!!





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18 Amazing Spaces

Nothing tops the buzz of checking into an exceptional hotel – but these amazing spaces not only make you feel right at home even from the other side of the world, they also embody the spirit of their location and the singular experiences they offer.



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Almost a cartoon creation of what paradise should look like, Mauritius offers much more than outstanding beauty. Add to that two of the island's most iconic resorts, and you have the ultimate tropical escape.

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Say hola to Son Bunyola Hotel, Virgin Limited Edition's beautiful new property located at the heart of Son Bunyola's 1300-acre estate in Mallorca's Tramuntana Mountains... a real labour of love for Sir Richard Branson.



48 Luxury Villas of Barbados

Escape from everyday life, embrace the freedom of choice, and experience a world of sensational luxuries, with your own private place to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with peace and tranquillity.





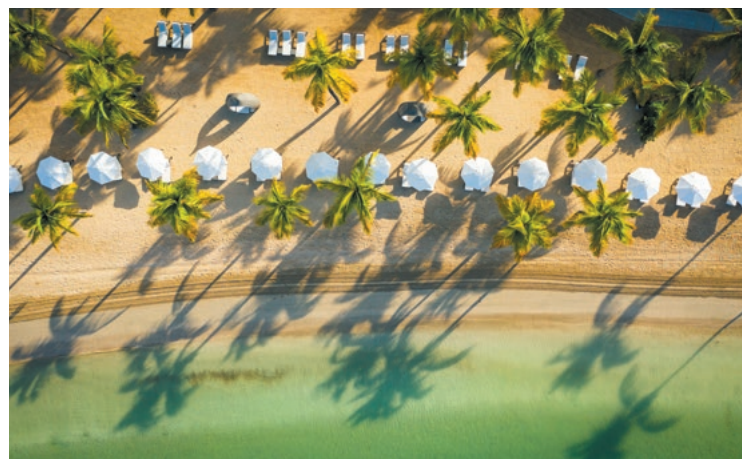
ISLAND HOPPING

ANTIGUA, ST BARTHS, ANGUILLA,
ST KITTS & NEVIS

AN EDEN ORIGINAL

WORDS | HELEN KAY, EDEN HEAD OF SALES

Long the destination of choice for those in the know, the Caribbean epitomises the term ‘laid-back luxury’ with its natural beauty, lavish resorts, friendly faces and lazy days.



Now more than ever before, you want peace of mind when choosing where to stay. Which is why, each year, our Travel Directors head out to experience the destinations, hotels and resorts we feature for themselves.

These visits ensure that every property remains in tip-top condition, continues to meet the very highest of standards and gives our clients exactly what it is they want from their holidays. It also gives our team the chance to explore new resorts that have opened in the past 12 months, investigate custom experiences and build on our close relationships with our in-resort and on-island contacts – all to further enhance clients' stays whenever they travel with EDEN.

Last March, it was the turn of four of our Travel Directors to head out to the Caribbean to discover why the ravishing islands of Antigua, St Barths, Anguilla, Nevis and St Kitts – and their wonderful resorts – continue to enchant with their distinctive and utterly beguiling personalities.

ANTIGUA

HOTEL REVIEWS

Antigua is a constant in EDEN's Top 10 destinations, and it's easy to see why – the hotels are all of an extremely high standard and we love the variety each of them offers. But more about those later. The island itself has so much to offer for all ages, from its rich history and multitude of activities to Devil's Bridge – a must-see natural wonder – and those eye-catching pink and white sandy beaches.

The cuisine is unbelievable too: a food tour is a phenomenal way to explore the island's culinary scene; and you should definitely head to Catherine's Café on Pigeon Point Beach, which brilliantly combines the unhurried ambience of a quaint Parisian café with the fresh, aromatic cuisine of Provence and the barefoot cool of a beach club.

Curtain Bluff

An elegant, intimate hotel flanked by the Caribbean Sea; we loved Curtain Bluff. Its 72 colonial-contemporary sea-facing rooms and suites boast serene, coastal-style interiors, lots of storage and spacious, sun-drenched terraces. Both restaurants are outstanding. Set on the sands, Seagrape – open for lunch daily and dinner several nights each week – has views for days and is so spectacular that pre-booking is key; while Tamarind serves breakfast and dinner daily with a side of nightly entertainment (you must try the grilled Yellowfin Tuna, it was immense!). Overlooking the sea, the spa offers an enviable location for any treatments, inside or out. Plus, over a dozen exciting activities – and the CeeBee Kids' Club – are included in your stay. The team is efficient and friendly, with incredible island knowledge, and there's lots of interaction from the manager who lives close by with his family. A magical place with a rich history and a handsome location.



Carlisle Bay

The grand, sweeping entrance to Carlisle Bay – a serene and welcoming resort situated on Horseshoe Bay on Antigua's south coast – is really quite something. And that's before you're met by the wonderful gentleman who guides you along the wooden-decked walkway to the bright, airy reception and invites you to sit and relax while you wait to check in. Given the number of restaurants (four), all the activities (five tennis courts, two pickleball courts, a vibrant kids' club, yoga pavilion, watersports centre, library, private screening room, Cara Organic Beauty Spa) and wide choice of superb experiences and excursions they offer, it still manages to be super peaceful. All 87 suites are quite simply lovely: spacious, uncluttered, filled with light and offering a choice of garden or sea views. Seclusion-seeking couples will appreciate the Bay Suites – reserved for adults only and set at the quieter end of the crescent-shaped beach (which, by the way, is terrific for a morning or early evening walk); while families will adore the ground-floor Beach Terrace Suites. Unpretentious, welcoming and relaxed, Carlisle Bay is a holiday must-stay for anyone wanting to relax and indulge in the bountiful hospitality of Antigua.

Hermitage Bay

Nestled on a hillside, set in 140 acres of plantations, rising up from a hidden, sandy cove, Hermitage Bay – set on the island's west coast – is a sensitively developed resort with experiences designed to restore, ignite, and soothe the soul – a first-rate find for honeymooners or adults travelling with teens. Hillside, Beachfront and Seaview Garden Suites – styled with dark woods and soft linens – are supreme spots to hide away and indulge in a little luxury. Step inside, and you'll find interiors that channel the beauty of the surrounding bay, while outside there's a private plunge pool, wraparound decking and sublime sea views. Though we didn't get to experience the food for ourselves, you can expect lots of local favourites, classic American dishes, modern European fare, and plenty of vegan and vegetarian options, all created using fresh produce from the resort's organic kitchen garden. Want to get out and explore the island or visit the nearby town of Jolly Harbour? The hotel's own speedboat can get you there! Overall, a delectable resort for a secluded Caribbean escape.



Jumby Bay Island

An iconic half-mile stretch of beach, a stylish exterior, a refreshing cocktail, and a crowd of friendly faces... that's what awaits as you breeze across the sea from the mainland to Jumby Bay Island. But if the journey doesn't take your breath away, the on-island experience undoubtedly will. The service is tremendous; ditto the array of island expeditions, the heavenly spa, exquisite culinary journeys (including the stellar White Night BBQs); and, of course, the indoor/outdoor lifestyle that's so much a part of Jumby Bay. Forty rooms and suites housed in pretty cottages have lofty ceilings, wide verandas, open-air bathrooms and stunning sea views. Or plump for one of the breathtakingly private Villas or Estate Homes. And while our stay here was short, we weren't low on highlights: searching for starfish, swimming in the infinity pool by the Pool Grille, drinking champagne on the powdery soft beach and cycling our way around the two kilometres of palm-fringed cycle paths. Jumby Bay, you are one-of-a-kind!



Blue Waters & The Cove Suites

Family-owned and with a 40-year heritage, this resort feels both intimate and tranquil, despite its larger footprint. Traditional Caribbean-style rooms are delightful, decked out with nautical blues and crisp white linens, and we loved our home for the night, the spacious Turtle Cottage – über-private and perfect for larger parties. Dinner at The Cove should be top of your list – the lobster tail was delicious; and the Reef Restaurant's light lunch was also a favourite. Staff were attentive, kind and really personalised our stay. The white-sand beach – small but charming – and bird song were a constant reminder of our Caribbean locale; there's lots to do for all ages; and the resort's location makes it easy to explore (nearby Devils Bridge with its natural blowholes and cool myths is a fab experience).

ST BARTHS

HOTEL REVIEWS

Flying into St Barths is an experience in itself! The runway is short and the landings themselves are a sight to behold! And then the fun really begins! Fabulously reminiscent of St Tropez, the island has long been a magnet for the world's glitterati, who flock to this French-speaking slice of island paradise in their droves (repeatedly!)... First up, there's a rolodex of upscale resorts and private villas. Then there's the resplendent white-sand beaches, including St Jean – parallel to Gustavia and the island's most active; Flamands – one of the longest; and Gouverneur and Colombier – more 'off-the-beaten-track'. The cerulean seas and colourful coral reefs are just begging to be explored (as are the über-cool beach clubs like Nikki Beach, Nao and Shellona); and it's a veritable culinary powerhouse too, with a wide selection of French-influenced gourmet restaurants. Oh, and don't forget the 200-plus exclusive boutiques in Gustavia and St Jean. But there's also much more to St Barths, like the ruins of Fort Gustave or Fort Karl, the Wall House Museum and Vieux Clocher (Gustavia's oldest building). The dramatic, mountainous landscape is well worth exploring, with hikes to hidden tide pools from Petit Cul-de-Sac Beach (not for the faint-hearted) and to Grand Fond Natural Pools (a little easier to get to). Top tip... Renting a car is highly recommended, as taxis can be few and far between.



Le Toiny

If you're looking for a peaceful, more secluded escape, Le Toiny is hard to beat. Set about 20 minutes on the far east side of the island, the remote location – a welcome contrast to the more developed areas of St Barths – affords the hotel a spacious and private atmosphere that honeymooners and couples will love. Set high on a hillside, and with only 22 suites – each with a private pool – the hotel delivers enchanting views of the sea and the nearby islands of St Kitts and Saba. As you'd expect, the service is impeccable too, with friendly French and Italian staff who are always willing to help. They'll also whisk you around the resort in Land Rover Defenders as and when you like. And a visit to the beach club is a must – particularly for lunch – it's vibe is very reminiscent of St Tropez's Club 55. A notable option for those who want a more laid-back – albeit still super-luxurious – St Barths getaway.



Rosewood Le Guanahani

This Rosewood property has been a St Barths mainstay for over 35 years and now, after a massive refurbishment following Hurricane Irma, it's better than ever before. Tucked away in Grand Cul-de-Sac, the entrance may be discreet, but the views from reception are simply smashing! To top it off, you're greeted with a glass of champagne while they check you in! Fifty-seven bright and airy rooms and suites, set in colourful French-Caribbean-style cottages with sea or garden views, are dotted throughout the property. Set down on the sands, The Beach House serves breakfast overlooking the pool (and sunrise), toes-in-the-sand lunches, and evening meals in a more formal setting. Meanwhile the spa, fitness centre, tennis court and non-motorised watersports offer ample opportunities to relax or stay active. And if you're looking for some nightlife, the parties, restaurants and beach clubs are all just a short taxi ride away.



Cheval Blanc St. Barths Isle de France



Just minutes from the airport, Gustavia and the best beach clubs, this St Barths sanctuary is found in a secluded spot at the end of Flamands Beach – one of the island's most fashionable stretches of sand. All 61 rooms, suites and villas are astonishing, set in tropical gardens or on the beach. The swimming pool here isn't massive, but it is a lovely spot to relax, as is the petite Cheval Blanc Spa. When it comes to food, La Cabane offers a relaxed, feet-in-the-sand beach club vibe with marvellous local fish dishes and ravishing views; and La Case is renowned as one of the island's best restaurants, with top-notch French-West Caribbean cuisine. And while this place is the epitome of exclusivity, the selection of villas and array of kids' amenities mean it's one of the island's best family-friendly options.

Eden Rock



Undoubtedly the island's glitziest hotel, steeped in Hollywood history and definitely a place to see and be seen, St Barths' very first hotel is perched on a rocky spur at the centre of beautiful St Jean Bay. Of the 37 uniquely redesigned rooms, suites and show-stopping villas – including three new suites built high on the Rock and three new sea view rooms atop the bustling Sand Bar (the culinary heart of the hotel) – the bright and airy Beach Rooms were undoubtedly our favourite. The setting is pretty unbeatable too – you can easily walk to some of the island's best restaurants, boutiques and nightlife – that's if you can bear to leave the endlessly entertaining private beach and calm cerulean waters; the new spa with beachside and child-friendly treatments; and the stylish-from-day-to-night Rémy Bar.

ANGUILLA

HOTEL REVIEWS

An oasis for solo travellers, couples and families alike, and considered by many to be one of the Caribbean's best-kept secrets, Anguilla is an incomparable island idyll: think 33 chalk-white, powdery-soft beaches (one of the island's biggest draws), teal waters, excellent golfing, some of the region's most impeccable accommodation and any number of island adventures (including shipwreck-diving, snorkelling with turtles, horse-riding and hydro-flights).

Proud, warm and welcoming, it's relatively small – just 16 miles long by 3.5 miles at its widest point – and far more exclusive than some of its neighbouring islands. It's also the culinary capital of the Caribbean, so expect lots of beach clubs and fine-dining destinations. And while it is a bit of a trek to get there, it's well worth the inter-island flight from Antigua. Prefer to fly in via private jet? There's a new private aircraft terminal currently being built, which will make getting there so much easier.

Four Seasons Resort Anguilla

Just 25 minutes from the airport on the island's north-west, the Four Seasons initially felt like it would be more geared towards couples, due to its architecture and styling. But that is far from the case as – like all Four Seasons resorts – families are more than welcome, with a designated zero-entry pool, Kids' for all Seasons programme and teens' activities, plus a Sports Pavilion and Sea Centre for guests of every age. Accommodation options range from spacious rooms to vibrant villas and outstanding ocean residences, so there's something to suit everyone. Set on a peninsula, the resort also has bragging rights to not one, but two magnificent beaches – serene Barnes Bay and Meads Bay – home to the Sea Centre – with its mile-long stretch of beach and a choice of restaurants and bars (a fab option for dining outside of the hotel). Our stay was brief so, out of the four restaurants here, we were only able to try the Sunset Lounge – which was unreal, by the way – with a mouthwatering array of light bites, sushi and 'Buddha Bowls'... A real highlight for us.



Zemi Beach House

Nestled on the north-east side of the island, Zemi Beach House is a bit of a hidden gem and a more informal, boutique and homely option to Four Seasons and Belmond Cap Juluca. The highlight here is undeniably the captivating beach, which, though not quite as impressive as Cap Juluca's, still offers a strikingly long stretch of white, powder-soft sand and turquoise sea. The 300-year-old imported Thai rice barn is another standout feature. Converted into the resort's spa, it features Anguilla's only Hamman and an array of treatments to choose from in a pretty incomparable setting. Accommodation-wise, the rooms, though spacious, do feel a little dated, but the Beachfront Suites and Celebration accommodations (often used by Paris Hilton) are absolutely astounding – vast in size and boasting divine rooftop pool decks. With its Rhum Room – filled to the brim with island spirit, two restaurants and friendly ambience, Zemi Beach House is an optimal choice for couples looking for a more relaxed Anguillan retreat.



Belmond Cap Juluca

WOW WOW WOW! We cannot recommend Belmond Cap Juluca enough! The location alone is out-of-this-world, situated on Maundays Bay in Anguilla's south west. As soon as you step into the open-air lobby, with its creamy linens and natural woven grass rugs, you know you're in for a luxurious stay. The Moroccan-style domed white villas are instantly eye-catching, but the real star of the show here is the jaw-dropping beach – a mile-long cove of marshmallow white sand and bright aquamarine sea that's simply sensational.

Cap Juluca has been through a lot, but the post-Hurricane Irma restoration has only made it stronger. The addition of five new villas, two new restaurants, and a new spa shows Belmond's continued commitment to providing the best guest experience; and we loved that the resort kept most of the unrivalled staff on during the restoration process to ensure guests would be greeted by familiar faces upon reopening. The attention to detail is apparent throughout, from the palm trees outside the villas with plaques bearing the names of repeat guests who have stayed here for 25 years, to the vintage Volkswagen buses that roam through the property. Rooms, suites and villas are all located along the beach with direct sea views or beach access. All have access to chaise lounges reserved on the beach directly in front of their rooms too. Our favourites? The private Premium Beachfront King Rooms with their rooftop terraces.

The eateries are all ocean-facing too: try UCHU's delicious spinach lobster wraps, Italian faves like tagliatelle with crayfish, and tiramisu at Cip's by Cipriani; and PIMMS' classic Caribbean food... The lobster there is to die for!

A luxurious sanctuary with a majestic location, outstanding service, and the most appealing beach you've ever seen. Just be sure to hire a car if you're planning on exploring beyond the hotel, as there isn't much within close proximity.



ST KITTS & NEVIS

HOTEL REVIEWS

Together, St Kitts and sister isle Nevis may form the Western Hemisphere's smallest country, but they do pack a heck of a punch. Both steeped in history, **Nevis** offers an interesting past and ample opportunity for hiking and biking in the lush rainforest. Be sure to visit **Charlestown**, one of the Caribbean's best-preserved towns and the **birthplace of Alexander Hamilton** (head to the **Museum of Nevis History** which intertwines Hamilton's own personal story with the history of colonialism on the island).

Super-clean **St Kitts**, meanwhile, boasts a rainforest-cloaked volcano, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Brimstone Fortress** (the views from the top are spell-binding), a scenic railway, zip lines, wreck-diving, hiking and a splendid golf course. Don't miss the **Wingfield Estate**, where the ruins of the Caribbean's first working estate and rum distillery were uncovered, or **Romney Manor's** Caribelle Batik and peaceful botanical gardens, once owned by a forefather of Thomas Jefferson. For lunch, visit **Arthurs**, where the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean meet – the Conch chowder is delicious!



Four Seasons Resort Nevis

Our recent stay at Four Seasons Nevis was nothing short of spectacular. It all started with a brief boat ride from St Kitts which added an extra layer of excitement to our trip and, when we were greeted with the warmest of welcomes, it was evident our time here was going to be really special. The resort itself is the island's largest and most luxurious, with a wondrous west coast location, meaning stunning sunsets and views over to St Kitts. Elegantly casual, the accommodation – a range of rooms and suites overlooking the Nevis Peak, the sea or the pool, and an enormous selection of chic villas in three different settings – is all decked out in a brilliant blend of neutral tones and Caribbean-inspired accents, creating a sense of place without being too overwhelming. There's a wide range of outstanding restaurants that cater to every occasion; a plethora of activities (multiple pools, world-class sporting facilities, a serene spa and free non-motorised watersports); and the staff were tremendous, always smiling and always eager to help.

Montpelier Plantation & Beach, Nevis

A hidden boutique hideaway nestled 750 feet above the Caribbean Sea, in the foothills of Nevis Peak, and reached by a scenic drive through the forest, Montpelier Plantation is surrounded by 60 acres of tropical gardens and built around one of the island's original 18th-century sugar plantations. Steeped in history, the plantation-style rooms and suites are scattered throughout the gardens, each individually styled with Caribbean touches and private verandas. We particularly liked the inviting two-bedroomed Tamarind Villa with its own plunge pool and a tad more privacy. For a small property, the dining options are first-class, particularly Restaurant 750. Named for its location, 750 feet above the sea, it's a truly elegant, unforgettable dining experience. Warm, welcoming and full of Caribbean charm, Montpelier works well for couples, families with kids over six, or anyone who wants to unwind, disconnect, be active and rediscover life's simple pleasures in an unequivocally unspoiled setting. And while it is a 20-minute journey from the hotel to the private beach (which comes complete with a bartender, loungers, cabanas and a shower), the hotel arranges complimentary transport every day (or simply lay back and lounge by Montpelier's 60-foot mosaic pool!).





Park Hyatt, St Kitts

As first impressions go, this one was pretty memorable... Show-stopping views out to the electric-blue bay from the lobby's open and calming space of white. A modern, minimalistic style, with splashes of Caribbean personality, is reflected in every corner of the property, and you feel instantly relaxed even before checking in! Set in Banana Bay on the southern part of the island, with irresistible views of Nevis, everything in the 124 spacious rooms and suites has been carefully considered, with thoughtful touches throughout. There are three first-class restaurants: The Great House offering delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners; the more rustic, oceanfront Fisherman's Village – a hotspot for all-day dining; and the adults-only Stone Barn with its sophisticated, elegant vibe. The Island Fort kids' club keeps youngsters entertained from day to night; the spa is just fabulous; and it's easy to head over to Nevis for the day from the resort's private jetty.



Belle Mont Farm, St Kitts

Driving up to this West Indian farm-to-table hotel in the north of the island was another treat in itself. The scenic coastal route gives way to a tree-lined driveway that winds its way up to the main hotel area. Set in 400 acres of organic farmland and lush forests at the foothills of Mount Liamuiga, the cottages and two- or three-bedroom villas – some with private pools – are simply decorated in a traditional style with dark wooden furniture and shutters. The open-air bathrooms are a nice touch, and mod-cons like Netflix and pull-down projectors make it feel like a real home away from home. Head to The Kitchen Restaurant for a seasonal Caribbean menu or the Pool Grille to enjoy a lighter lunch or cocktails. And the monthly Sunday brunch is hugely popular with the locals. The facilities here are top-drawer, from the pool and gym area to the nine-hole golf course; and there are excellent opportunities for hiking and biking. It's heaven for couples who want privacy, and the organic farm and cooking classes are such an unforgettable experience.



OMG

OMAN | MALDIVES | GOODNESS

A stylish, sophisticated, utterly unspoilt and staggeringly hypnotic destination for those looking to enjoy the very best Arabia has to offer, Oman's natural assets make this unassuming desert realm one of the hottest tickets around. Round it off with a stay in the mesmeric Maldives and you've got the perfect blend of recreation and repose.

One of the oldest civilisations on the Persian Peninsula, Oman's history and Arabian tales include those of the Queen of Sheba, the Prophet Job and Sinbad the Sailor. Today, it's a charismatic combination of ageless heritage and modern life, a land of unlimited discovery and a place of natural beauty, thriving wildlife and warm Omani hospitality.

From its tall mountains and deep gorges, to the endless beaches and some of the world's most divine desert landscapes, the diverse beauty is apparent in every part of the country. And, when summer temperatures soar in the rest of the region, the Sultanate enjoys cooler temperatures in Dhofar and the mountain tops of the Al Hajar range.

So, whether you're looking for a relaxing getaway or an extreme adventure, Oman really does have it all. Take a tour of the souqs, find traditional treasures, hike through awe-inspiring wadis, cycle across mountains, explore ancient forts, dive into the vibrant underwater world, take a dhow cruise along the coast, or simply relax and take in the seductive scenery. There's so much to discover.



MUSCAT WAHIBA SANDS NIZWA MALDIVES

14 DAYS



Days 1-4

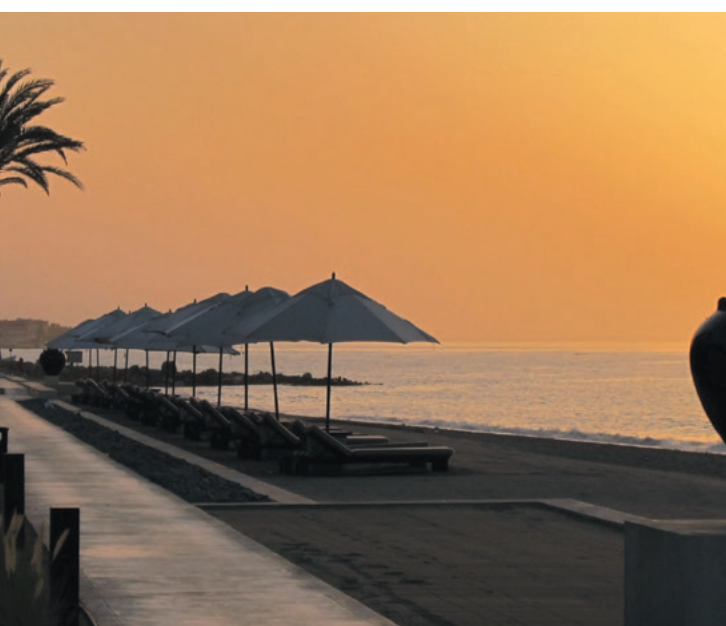
Muscat

Three nights in **Muscat** at the start of your adventure affords you the opportunity to witness the interesting diversity between Old and New Muscat – a modern commercial centre that exists in complete harmony with its traditional culture. And, when it comes to accommodation, there's nowhere better to stay than **The Chedi**. As hotels go, it's pretty dazzling stuff, where they've taken care not to go into OTT territory, giving the resort a stylish boutique air, but on a not-so-boutique scale.

Take a **private full-day tour** of this gleamingly white city. Start in the beautifully quaint **Old Muscat**. Nestled between two valleys, it's tiny compared to its more modern counterpart, and therefore easy to see why a slight relocation was required! Check out **Al Alam Palace**, at the heart of Old Muscat, and the most important of ruling monarch Sultan Qaboos' six royal residences. It's Oman's most flamboyant example of contemporary Islamic design and, while not open to the public, you can get an excellent view of the façade from the front gates. Back in **New Muscat**, a tour of the **Grand Mosque** is imperative. Built with marble from Italy and swathed in carpets from Iran, it's also home to the world's second-largest hand-loomed Iranian carpet, which took 600 women four years to weave! Then pay a visit to the **Bait Al Zubair Museum** for a brief introduction to Oman's history and development and the chance to see an enormous collection of cultural treasures, from Omani weaponry to art and jewellery.

For a real taste of Oman, visit **Mutrah Souq**, a 200-year-old maze of alleyways and roads with shops selling everything you can imagine. Stroll through its ancient alleyways; indulge your senses with the intoxicating scents of incense, Arabian perfumes and exotic spices; and barter your way to owning some Arabian silverware and traditional cloth – or maybe some Frankincense to make your next Christmas extra-special. Being on the **Gulf of Oman**, you're also ideally placed to take a **dhow cruise** from the marina and see the rugged coastline through the eyes of ancient seafarers who plied this route for centuries. Search the seas for wild dolphins and one of the many whale species that can be found just a few miles from the coast. While not every trip guarantees a sighting, you're sure to boost your knowledge of nature's most fascinating marine mammals.

Stay: The Chedi, Muscat



Day 5

Wahiba Sands

Nothing compares to the magic of a night spent under star-studded skies in the sensual silence of the desert, so your next stop is a visit to the vast **Sharqiya Desert** – also known as Wahiba Sands – for an intriguing insight into a rapidly disappearing way of life. Just a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Muscat, it's the most easily accessible desert area in the country and a highlight of any trip to Oman.

Accompanied by a guide, your journey across the wild desert to **Desert Nights Camp** allows you to savour the views of the rolling, towering sand dunes of Wahiba, get the chance to meet with the Bedouins who call the desert home, and cool off in the natural waters of **Wadi Bani Khalid**, a real desert oasis surrounded by palm tree gardens.

Sprawled across 10 acres of silken sands, secluded almost seven miles into the vast isolation of the Omani desert, Desert Nights Camp is a prime spot for your Arabian Desert adventure, with striking craggy mountains in the distance, endless dunes, crystalline wadis and plenty of escapades and adventures. Watch the mighty sand dunes change colour from white to yellow to red throughout the day; and don't miss a **desert safari experience** here, whether that's **dune-bashing** in a 4x4, taking a **sunset camel ride**, or zipping through the dunes on a **sand-board** or **quad bike**. Then feast on traditional Omani fare in the flickering glow of the campfire before retreating to your private Bedouin-style, fully air-conditioned en-suite tent and drifting off into a luxurious night's sleep.

Stay: Desert Nights Camp



Days 6-8

Nizwa

After an utterly unique stay in the desert, your next stop is **Nizwa**, the principal city of the interior and just 90 minutes from Muscat. Steeped in tradition, it's home to the famous **Round Tower Fort**, built in the 17th century, with hypnotically dark tales of 'murder holes' involving hot date oil, scorpions and snakes! Its souq is mind-blowing too. And, if you have time, visit the **Al Hoota Caves** for their intriguing stalactites, stalagmites and underground lake, followed by the unmissable **Waterfalls of Tanu**.

Home for the next three nights is **Alila Jabal Akhdar** – perched 2200 metres above sea level in the Al Hajar Mountains – a real haven for adventure travellers, nature lovers and those seeking a retreat from the desert heat in absolute comfort and indigenous style. It's a sublime spot from which to get under the skin of the region's magnificent, untouched landscapes, with everything from visits to **remote, uninhabited mountain villages** to **trekking**; **canyon walks**; and **cave explorations**. Exceptionally appointed contemporary suites and villas are generously dotted around the cliff-top to maximise privacy and make the most of those views, and all are laced with an authentic Omani flavour.

Stay: Alila Jabal Akhdar





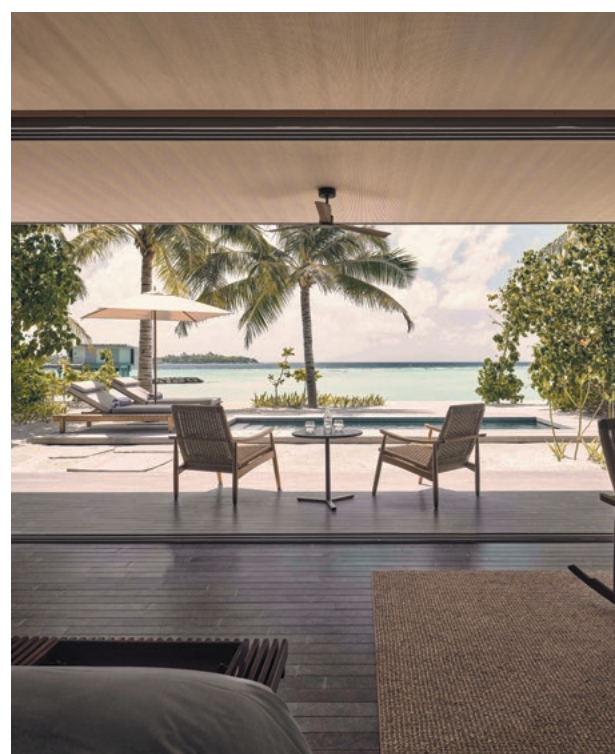
Days 9-14

Maldives

After an epic week of Arabian adventures, it's time to escape to the Maldives – an archipelago of tiny teardrop islands like nowhere else on Earth... Sapphire seas under clear blue skies, exploring the translucent lagoons and making footprints in the powder-white sands. Heavenly! Your home for the next five nights is **Patina Maldives, Fari Islands**, designed by renowned Brazilian architect Marcio Kogan, with 90 contemporary one- to three-bedroom Beach and Water Pool Villas and 20 Fari Studios, all of which embody a harmony of sanctuary and stimulation.

Activities are almost endless – and pretty distinctive too! The **solar-powered kids' club**, Footprints, hosts a range of tailor-made experiences that are both fun and educational. The resort's **diving programme** offers free discovery scuba lessons for resort guests aged 12 years and under, helping to raise next-generation awareness of the local ocean environment. And there's a host of thoughtful **wellness journeys**, **interactive music programmes**, **captivating culinary experiences**, and the light-filled **Skyspace**, a permanent installation by revered Californian artist James Turrell – not to mention a **vibrant social scene** that emanates from the destination's communal heart: the **Fari Marina Village** and **Fari Beach Club**.

Stay: Patina Maldives, Fari Islands



BAREFOOT INFORMALITY

MILAI DHOO, MALDIVES



What We Say

If you had to choose a small island on which to write your own love story, you couldn't find a better spot than Milaidhoo Maldives. A picture-book tropical haven proudly rooted in local island traditions, this is an intimate, warm and welcoming private island resort, one of re-invented luxury, contemporary living and barefoot informality; where laid-back is the status quo, dining is nothing short of exceptional, hospitality is heartfelt and genuine, and experiences are curated to help you make memories to cherish forever. And above all, Milaidhoo offers a taste of the real Maldives, opening doors to local culture and experiences and inspiring a love of life and nature, where guests can feel like they truly belong.

The Accommodation

This beautifully boutique luxury resort is home to just 50 contemporary Maldivian-style pool villas – each assigned an Island Host to help create meaningful experiences and cater to your every need. Choose from serene thatched-roof water villas, complete with private pools and endless views over sparkling azure waters, or beach villas that open up 180 degrees onto a spacious deck inspired by Maldivian outdoor living, just steps away from the white, powder-soft beach. The private island also features an extraordinary two-bedroom, 564-square-metre Ocean Residence, an expansive overwater utopia where privacy is key, and romance takes centre stage.



The Location

Nestled in the heart of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this pristine island paradise, fringed by a deep, soft white-sand beach, measures just 300 by 180 metres. Easily reached by a 30-minute seaplane flight from Malé, or a 15-minute domestic flight to Dharavandhoo domestic airport in Baa Atoll and a 15-minute speedboat ride, it's a seductive setting for nature lovers as the surrounding coral reef is noted as an outstanding snorkelling and diving site. It's just 15 minutes by speedboat to Hanifaru Bay too – the largest known Manta feeding station in the world.

As well as overwater spa treatments, sunrise yoga classes, sunset dolphin cruises and snorkelling excursions to view the astounding house reef, Milaidhoo Moments ensure you'll feel a million miles away from everyday life.



Dining

Milaidhoo's three restaurants offer outstanding dining in wonderfully informal settings. No shoes required. Ever. The Shoreline Grill serves up full-flavoured meats and freshly caught local fish, simply cooked and gorgeously presented. Enjoy tropical breakfasts and casually comfortable lunches and dinners at Ocean, with international dishes perfectly presented from the à la carte menu. And Ba'theli, shaped like three traditional dhonis that seemingly float by the reef in the lagoon, offers innovative meals steeped in Maldivian tradition, each dish inspired by favourites of the ancient maritime Spice Route.



Milaidhoo Moments

As an adults-focused resort, Milaidhoo is totally tranquil, with an array of inspirational excursions and adventures to enjoy. Join a local fisherman and learn how to fish Maldivian-style. Have an island insider personally guide you through the local culture and history. Head out with the chef into the Chef's Garden to pick local herbs, discuss local cuisine and co-create a new dish. Team up with the mixologist and see if you can concoct something original to feature on the cocktail menu. Snorkel with Manta Rays, the gentle giants of the ocean at Hanifaru Bay (May to October). Or spend a night on Milaidhoo's isolated sandbank, magically transformed with the comforts of your villa.

AMAZING SPACES





Nothing tops the buzz of checking into an exceptional hotel – but these amazing spaces not only make you feel right at home, even from the other side of the world, they also embody the spirit of their locale and the singular experiences they offer.

SECRET BAY DOMINICA, CARIBBEAN

Celebrated for its commitment to sustainability and authenticity, this secluded, six-star all-villa resort experience on the unspoiled Nature Island of Dominica is the embodiment of a holistic hideaway.

Composed entirely of sustainably sourced materials and certified Green Globe, its 12 free-standing cliff-top villas, enveloped in nature's lush embrace, are famed for their artful fusion of high design and local craftsmanship. Choose from one of three utterly romantic Zabuco Villas for panoramic ocean vistas; serene rainforest seclusion in the Ylang Ylang Villas; or an under-the-radar, two-storey Ti-Fèy hideaway. Each is a luxurious sanctuary in which to reconnect with nature, one another and yourself, and features expansive indoor and outdoor living spaces, a private plunge pool, dedicated villa host, on-call concierge, chefs and guides, access to a secret beach and transformative experiences curated specifically for each individual guest.





AMAZING SPACES

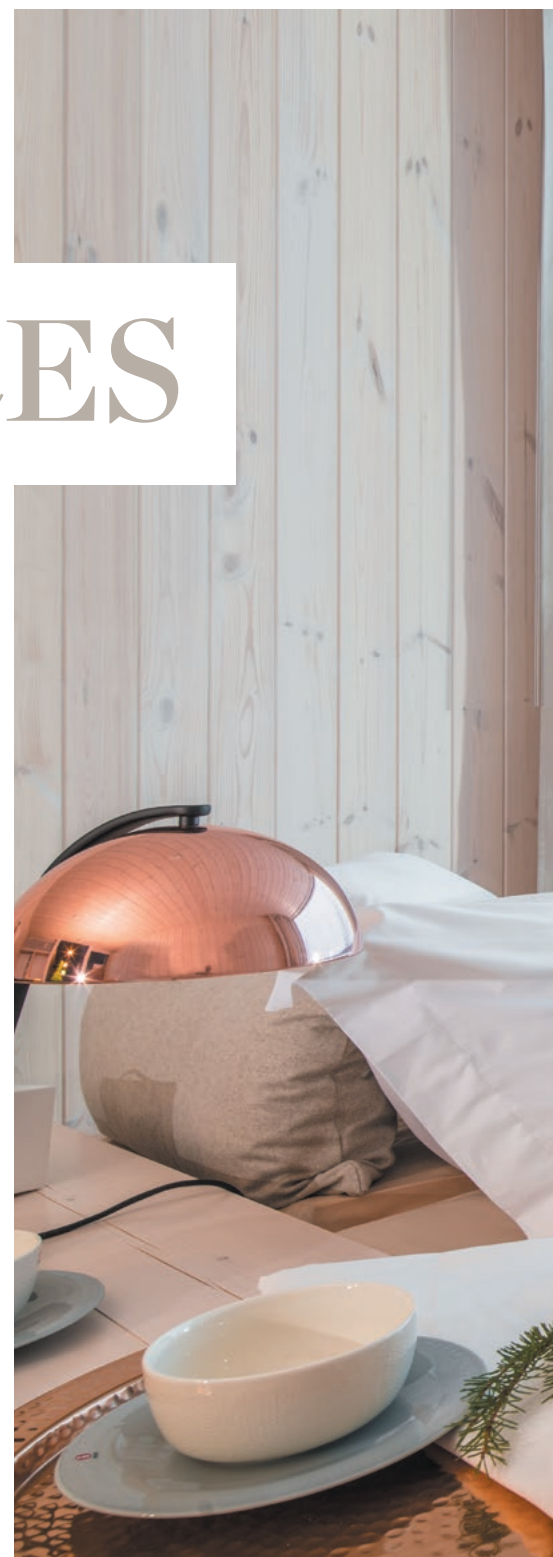
AMANGIRI CANYON POINT, UTAH, USA

Four hours from Las Vegas, nestled in the heart of a 180-million-year-old desert, surrounded by towering canyon walls, and at the gateway to major national parks in the Colorado Plateau like the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park, Amangiri is a hotel unlike any other.

In this desert landscape of canyons, mesas, ridges and gorges, on the border of Arizona and Utah – a world away from civilisation – this hidden gem is a staggering example of bold architecture and sleek design, and an enchanting tribute to the beauty of the lunar scenery and untamed wilderness that envelops it. The journey here – past orange promontories and barren stretches of desert – is all part of the experience and, as you approach this striking destination, the hotel seemingly disappears and reappears like a mirage, making your arrival even more fantastical. Built around a jaw-dropping pool, with natural rock forming the centrepiece, modernist suites offer an inspiring welcome and front-row access to a world of adventure, discovery and relaxation.



AMAZING SPACES



ARCTIC TREEHOUSE FINNISH LAPLAND

If you're looking for a bewitching break that's positively out of the ordinary, look no further than Arctic Treehouse.

Owned and managed by the same company as the neighbouring SantaPark, a hugely popular subterranean Christmas theme park, Arctic Treehouse is the definitive destination in which to immerse yourself in the spirit of the season, enjoy all sorts of fun adventures, cultural outings, springtime explorations or romantic moments.



There's a variety of services, like husky and reindeer safari operators, right on the doorstep. And getting there is a breeze – Rovaniemi's international airport is just a 10-minute drive away. But the real magic happens when you check into one of the Arctic TreeHouse's 'nests'. These cleverly designed shingle-clad suites, which closely resemble pine-cone cows (the hotel's official mascot), stand on the hillside on stilts among the trees. It's almost as if they are wandering downhill, curiously inspecting their surroundings, while perfectly blending into the landscape... and unlike anything we've seen before.

Each features a panoramic window with spell-binding views of the surrounding valley – a prime position from which to watch the Northern Lights dance across the sky as and when they appear.

With 52 individual nests, five Arctic GlassHouses, and three ArcticScene Executive Suites, there's something to suit every taste and budget. Best of all, they're designed to ensure complete privacy, with some adjoining so small groups and families can happily lodge together.

SAFARI LODGES OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's biggest attractions are truly wild and a safari is undoubtedly its biggest draw. Head out into the bush and you'll experience everything from bodacious backdrops to captivating culture and of course a world of wondrous wildlife.

The array of accommodation is also outstanding, particularly at three of our favourite luxury lodges: Singita Lebombo in the Kruger National Park; Royal Malewane in the private Thornybush reserve; and Tswalu Kalahari, in South Africa's largest private reserve in the arid far north.

Royal Malewane



Singita Lebombo



Tswalu Kalahari



Singita Lebombo, Kruger National Park

A sleek retreat from what is arguably Africa's finest luxury safari company, Singita Lebombo was inspired by the many eagles' nests built into the cliff face above the N'wanetsi River. The result? A brilliantly bold and contemporary space with organic, light-filled structures that seemingly float between river and sky in the legendary Kruger National Park. All the communal areas have been pushed out into nature to ensure that the outside bursts right on in, offering immersive and meditative spaces set in a dramatic landscape of giant euphorbia trees. And besides the sumptuous private suite spaces, there's a wine studio, library and rooftop terrace, an interactive kitchen, espresso bar, help-yourself deli, and an additional 25-metre lap pool. You're pretty much guaranteed to see the Big Five – and much more besides.

Royal Malewane, Thornybush Private Game Reserve

Soak up the luxurious surroundings, magnificent hospitality and the wonders of the Greater Kruger ecosystem under the expert guidance and care of the award-winning safari team at Royal Malewane's three luxury safari lodges and private bush villas. Each embodies an exquisite vision of design and the ultimate in hospitality, from the Luxury or Royal Suites and re-imagined Africa House of Malewane Lodge (the original Biden family homestead); to the Farmstead – intimate and more contemporary in style, its three Luxury Farm Suites each boasting an alluring deck and private pool overlooking the bush. Waterside, meanwhile, with its uniquely bold design, redefines the traditional safari experience through its four Luxury Suites, two-bedroom Baobab Suite, and four-bedroom Waterside House – an absolutely divine private villa.

Tswalu Kalahari, Tswalu Kalahari Private Reserve

South Africa's largest private reserve in the arid far north, with the lowest guest footprint in all of South Africa, Tswalu offers a true wilderness experience on the southernmost edge of the Kalahari. From the landmark Korannaberg mountains to the southern Kalahari's typical savannah and iconic ochre dunes rippling away to the horizon, guests have the freedom and flexibility to explore the remote reaches of the reserve at their own pace. Besides game drives, safari activities include the not-to-be-missed habituated meerkat encounters, nature walks, tracking, horse-riding, stargazing and star-bed experiences. And whether you choose the Motse, Tarkuni or Loapi camp, luxury accommodation and generous South African hospitality set the scene for a deeply private wilderness experience.

THE PERFECT PAIR

MAURITIUS

Almost a cartoon creation of what paradise should look like, Mauritius – land of sugar and smiles – offers much more than outstanding beauty – even though that beauty is enough to satiate pretty much anyone’s appetite. Add to that two of the island’s most iconic resorts, and you have the ultimate tropical escape.

ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN
SHANGRI-LA LE TOUESSROK RESORT





Far from being a newcomer when it comes to serving up luxury holidays, Mauritius has a heap of experience (48 years to be precise). Its flock of off-the-scale resorts sprinkled around its shores all offer guests an upscale taste of island life that also includes authentic interactions, meaningful experiences, extraordinary adventures and memories to last a lifetime.

The genuine friendliness and sincerity of the Mauritian people means that the island consistently trumps its Indian Ocean opponents like the Maldives and Seychelles when it comes to service; while its super, natural splendour and miles of palm-fringed sandy beaches, almost entirely encircled by coral reefs – superb for snorkelling and spotting an exciting variety of marine life – make it a magnet for love-struck couples.

The diverse array of activities, excursions and incredibly run kids' clubs found at most resorts, means that this tropical African oasis is the Indian Ocean's greatest multi-generational family destination and one of the most child-friendly destinations on the planet. There's everything from exhilarating watersports (jet-skiing, wind-surfing, water-skiing, kite-surfing and sea-karting), para-sailing, mountain trekking and bird-watching; to exploring the French colonial-inspired architecture of Port Louis' old city, the botanical gardens, two UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Aapravasi Ghat) – or even riding an underwater scooter to get eye-to-eye with the local sealife.

It's a vastly popular spot for golf enthusiasts too. Each of the 10 courses here is distinctive in design, setting and technical specificities. Some are nestled in the heart of lush nature, between mountain and sea, like One&Only Le Saint Géran's championship course, set against the scenic backdrop of Montagne Bambous. Others constantly remind you you're on an idyllic tropical island, like Île aux Cerfs Golf Club at Shangri-La. Most have been designed by renowned professional golfers like Rodney Wright or Ernie Els, so golfers can indulge in their favourite sport on all the island's golf courses without ever getting bored!

And on top of the rich history, melting pot of cultures and ethnicities which, by the way, shines so very brightly throughout the language, food, music and festivals here, there are the resorts – your home away from home throughout a marvellous Mauritian stay. Two of our favourites? The island's leading lady, **One&Only Le Saint Géran** in Poste de Flacq on the north-eastern side of the island, and the private hideaway of **Shangri-La Le Touessrok** in the small village of Trou d'Eau Douce on the untouched Eastern coast.

For 30 years, Le Touessrok blossomed under the vision of Sol Kerzner and, together with Le Saint Géran, formed part of Sol Kerzner's exclusive One&Only collection, reigning supreme on this magical island. Fast forward to 2023 and both properties – the former now run by Asian-based powerhouse Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts – have undergone outstanding multi-million-dollar transformations, are more in demand than ever before and make for a flawless stay – either on their own or combined – for maximum beach time.

ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN



One&Only Le Saint Géran is a dreamy sun-baked utopia in one of the island's finest locations. And while the vibe here is now more authentic and a little less reserved following a major facelift back in 2017, the grande dame of Mauritius has happily kept her style and elegance intact.

Accommodation throughout is spacious, with multiple interconnecting options for larger families. And with plenty of quiet spots scattered throughout the gardens and decking area, it's easy to simply spend lazy days on a sun-lounger or hammock and lose yourself in a page-turner of a book.

Activity seekers need not fret, however – there's plenty more to do so it's ideal for couples and families of all ages. Bikes are stationed outside every villa, the Boathouse offers all sorts of motorised and non-motorised watersports, and Club One – the hub for all things active – also houses the kids' and teens' clubs.

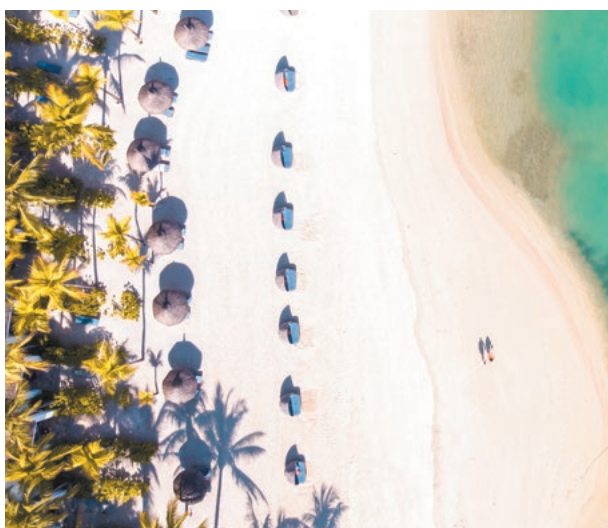
The eateries here are all absolutely unreal as you'd expect too, from the proper French pâtisserie to the adventurous Tapasake.



Nestling on the linked islands of Hibiscus and Frangipani and overlooking a divinely tranquil bay, Shangri-La Le Touessrok is a smart, stylish haven. The first-class choice of accommodation includes 200 elegant rooms and suites, three exclusive Beach Villas and the ultra-private Frangipani Club Suites (the latter set on a separate islet connected to the main island with a rolodex of exclusive benefits, including complimentary signature cocktails during the daily golden hour and bespoke butler service).

Around the resort, you'll find jaw-dropping white-sand beaches edged by warm lagoon waters and an immaculate free-form pool winding its way around palm trees.

Explore further and you'll discover the Zen-like Chi, The Spa, an oasis of calm and pure tranquillity offering blissful treatments to relax both body and mind. And, just when you thought you'd seen it all, the resort also boasts two private islands – a spectacularly challenging golf course on one, and a heavenly beach hideaway, exclusive to guests, on the other – both just a short boat trip away. What more could you ask for?



SHANGRI-LA LE TOUESSROK RESORT

SUMMER IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

AUSTRALIA | NEW ZEALAND | SOUTH AFRICA

JANUARY TO APRIL
TWENTY-TWENTY-FOUR

Winter is coming... whether we like it or not! But while we're bringing out our big coats and bracing ourselves for the bitter winter weather, our friends in the Southern Hemisphere are celebrating the return of the summer months! So why not leave the winter blues behind and head to one of our favourite spots south of the equator... Not only will you get the chance to shed a layer or two, you're also guaranteed the most awesome adventures!!



AUSTRALIA

Summer in Australia falls between December and February and is famous for sunny days and high temperatures (except in the tropical north, where it's wet season). So, for a most-excellent Australian summer, head to the southern parts of the country, where the sun is shining, the temperatures soar and you're never too far away from some of the world's best beaches.

In **South Australia**, summer is all about the sea. The clear blue waters will tempt you to dive straight in, and offer up an abundance of seafood to satisfy after a refreshing dip. Swim with sea lions, dolphins or even Great White Sharks in the Eyre Peninsula, or head to Coffin Bay to eat freshly shucked oysters. **Kangaroo Island** is a wildlife and food lover's wonderland, so spend a few days discovering the wine, gin, cheese and honey before having close-up encounters with kangaroos, koalas and echidnas. Closer to Adelaide you can spend a day tasting fine wines in the **Barossa Valley**, **Adelaide Hills** or **McLaren Vale**, before cooling off with a walk along the beach in the city suburb of Glenelg.

In **Melbourne**, summer is full of excitement, and nothing beats the sporting event of the year – the Australian Open,

held at the end of January. It's also a terrific time to escape the city and explore the **Great Ocean Road**, sip wine and swim in the **Mornington Peninsula**, or hike Wilsons Promontory's wild and wonderful trails. Pay a visit to the adorable koalas and penguins on Phillip Island and be sure to stay around until dusk to watch the penguin parade (a procession of penguins returning to their burrows after a day hunting out at sea).

Summer in **Sydney** provides a golden opportunity to explore the coast, its family friendly swimming beaches, sensational surf and surrounding national parks. Learn to surf at **Bondi Beach**, take a guided hike to the Instagram-famous Figure 8 Pools in the Royal National Park, or skip it all and relax at a rooftop bar with a glass of Frosé (frozen rosé). Book early to experience Sydney Harbour's famous New Year's Eve fireworks show and watch the start of the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. It's also an opportune time of year to get out of the city and head for the charming coastal towns, picturesque wine country or the cooler altitudes of the **Blue Mountains**.

Perth is famous for its tantalising beaches, so be sure to spend some time exploring

the coastline. **Rottne Island** – home to the happiest animals on Earth, the adorable resident quokkas – is just a short ferry ride away, but you'll feel like you've been transported to another world with 63 white sand beaches to discover. You can head a few hours north to **Jurien Bay** where you can snorkel with sea lions, or further south to **Rockingham** to swim with dolphins. In **Margaret River** you'll get more knockout beaches alongside award-winning wineries, giving you plenty to do from morning to evening. Continue along to **Esperance** in Cape Le Grand National Park for beaches frequented by local kangaroos.

Sizzling summer days are what **Queensland** is famous for, bringing lots of visitors to the area to take advantage of the extensive coastline, warm waters and abundant outdoor activities on offer. It can also be quite humid in the region during summer, so beach-hop along the **Gold Coast**, chill out in the seaside town of **Noosa** or plan an island escape to beat the heat. There are extraordinary, easy-to-reach islands dotted along the coast, including **K'gari** – the world's largest sand island. Spot wild dingoes, float in the crystal waters of Lake McKenzie, have a 4WD adventure on Rainbow Beach or relax at the island's resort.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealanders are an easy-going bunch, but in summer even Kiwis take it down a notch. Across the country, the weather is largely warm with relatively low rainfall. Head north and it gets warmer; in the south, the temperatures can reach lows of 10°C; and in Queenstown, average temperatures can be anywhere from 17°C to 6°C. Nevertheless, summer is a standout time for visitors wanting to explore this legendary, rugged and absolutely astonishing country.

On **North Island**, **Auckland** is New Zealand's major international gateway – a lively, cosmopolitan city with a buzzing arts scene, exciting restaurants and nightlife, all never too far away from idyllic islands, native bush and black-sand beaches. In the far north, where two oceans collide and New Zealand's modern history began, is **Northland** – a tale of two coastlines – the rugged west home to ancient forests and unspoiled beaches; the east, sparkling harbours and sheltered bays, where you can dive, fish or just relax in the sun. Still on the east coast, Te Moananui ā Toi or '**Bay of Plenty**' serves up bodacious white-sand beaches, rolling surf, sparkling harbours, bush walks, cycle trails, unforgettable wildlife-watching adventures, ancient rainforests, waterfalls, ocean-front dining, boutique shops, panoramic views, busy marinas, a rich Māori heritage, even kayak tours through a glow worm canyon! And the **Coromandel**'s coastline reveals hundreds of natural hideaways and is home to the famous Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach, where beach-goers can be found digging their own private hot pools at low tide.

Both above and below ground, **the Waikato** is an enchanting place. The lush rolling hills of the shire beckon visitors to **Hobbiton**, twinkling galaxies of glow worms can be explored at **Waitomo Caves**, and the award-winning **Hamilton Gardens** are well worth getting lost in for the afternoon. **Rotorua** is alive – not just with adrenaline-fuelled activities but also geothermal energy that creates an otherworldly wonderland of steaming vents, shooting geysers and colourful mineral pools. Manuhiri (visitors) are welcomed and offered rich insight through intricately carved buildings, arts, crafts, concerts and hāngī feasts.

At the heart of the North Island, is **Taupō**, home to the Southern Hemisphere's biggest lake, the thundering Huka Falls and an all-seasons holiday hot spot for trout-fishing, watersports and numerous outdoor pursuits. **Hawke's Bay**'s famed food and wine culture fuels almost every kind of activity there, from exploring the artisan farmers' markets, cycling from cellar door to beachside café, or enjoying a degustation menu among the vines. **Wairarapa** stuns with its charismatic coastlines, big skies and colonial towns – surrounded by fertile soils producing excellent wines and delicious fresh produce; and **Wellington** – a little city with a big heart – has a compelling mix of culture, nature and cuisine. It's compact enough to spend the day wandering through hidden laneways, sampling foodie treats, and discovering Aotearoa's stories in museums and galleries.

From wildlife to wineries, glacial valleys to star-filled skies, **South Island** also offers adventure in all forms. **Marlborough** is known for its seafood and Sauvignon Blanc, best enjoyed in a remote waterfront retreat after a day's hiking or biking the Queen Charlotte Track; and the **Abel Tasman National Park** – a haven for hiking, kayaking and marine wildlife.

Kaikōura's dramatic mountain ranges frame clear, deep-blue waters – teeming with whales, dolphins, seals and rare seabirds which can be spotted from the air, boat or kayak. Land adventures can be had here too, with coastal hikes and bike tracks. Then there's the revitalised "garden city" of **Christchurch** which showcases the latest in urban design and is filled with exciting new eateries, retail spaces and stupendous arts and culture, both on the city's walls and in its many galleries. It's an inspiring base camp from which to explore the outdoors, in the city's gardens and beyond the city boundaries.

Nestled against majestic mountains on the shore of Lake Wakatipu, **Queenstown** sets the stage for adventure – from adrenaline-fuelled activities like skiing, mountain-biking, bungee and sky-diving to reconnecting with nature on a lake cruise or hike – all rounded off with a sophisticated, vibrant dining scene and accommodation to suit all tastes.

Just over the Crown Range, **Wānaka**'s seductive lakes, mountains and proximity to Mount Aspiring National Park make it the ultimate base to sky-dive, conquer waterfalls by via ferrata, take on rapids, or scale a peak in unspoilt natural landscapes. And finally, **Fiordland** – home to the country's largest national park and ancient glacier-carved Milford and Doubtful Sounds – has achieved World Heritage status for its stunning natural features and its role in demonstrating the world's evolutionary history.



SOUTH AFRICA

As the Southern Hemisphere welcomes the new year, South Africa is a cracking destination to start it off right. With a diverse range of experiences on offer, from wildlife safaris to wine-tasting, there really is something for everyone to enjoy during the country's summer months.

One of the most famous South African experiences is undoubtedly a safari and, with January to April being warm and dry, it's easier to spot wildlife, making summer a sublime time for safari-goers. **Kruger National Park** is one of the most popular destinations, with a mind-blowing variety of animals to see, including the Big Five (lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo and rhino). However, for a more secluded and exclusive experience, consider visiting one of South Africa's lesser-known private reserves, such as **Sabi Sands** or **Timbavati**. These reserves offer luxurious accommodation and personalised game drives with expert guides, giving you the chance to get up close and personal with Africa's iconic wildlife.

Often visited en route to Kruger National Park, the scenic **Panorama Route** in **Mpumalanga Province** is a destination in its own right. Major highlights include Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes, the Three Rondavels, Long Tom Pass and the transcendent outlook spot known as God's Window.

Those who prefer a more urban experience should head to **Cape Town** – a must-visit destination any time of year, but particularly in summer. Take the cable car to the top of Table Mountain for panoramic views of the city and the ocean, or stroll through the colourful Bo-Kaap neighbourhood, famous for its brightly painted houses. For a taste of South African history, visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned during apartheid. In the evenings, head to one of Cape Town's many world-class restaurants to sample the superlative local cuisine and superior wines.

Speaking of wine, oenophiles will definitely want to visit the **Western Cape's** famous wine region, encompassing **Stellenbosch, Franschhoek** and **Paarl**. January to April is harvest season, so it's a supreme time to visit and taste some of South Africa's best wines. Many wineries offer tours and tastings, but for an unequalled experience, why not consider a hot air balloon ride over the vineyards, followed by a champagne breakfast? The Western Cape also offers some of the best locations for viewing the diverse marine life, mainly due to the merging of the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean currents.

Soak up the scenery along the 124-mile **Garden Route**, stretching from **Mossel Bay** to **Storms River**. This is also a hugely popular destination for outdoor activities, with opportunities for hiking, kayaking, and whale-watching. For the more adventurous, consider bungee jumping off Bloukrans Bridge, the highest commercial bungee jump in the world, or shark-cage diving in **Gansbaai**.

If you want something a little more active, hiking enthusiasts will love the **Drakensberg Mountains** in **KwaZulu-Natal**, where they can explore scenic trails and stunning waterfalls. This is the largest mountain range in South Africa and a thoroughly spell-binding spot – so much so that J.R.R. Tolkien saw this landscape as inspiration for the part of Middle Earth called the Misty Mountains.



It's also home to 35,000 examples of San rock paintings and a huge diversity of protected plant and animal species. Staying in KZN, explore **Zululand** and experience some of South Africa's most entrancing vistas, as well as the **Battlefields Region**, home to Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift – two of the country's most famous battlefields in the country; or set off to the coast for some of South Africa's best scuba-diving and whale-watching.

Finally, no trip to South Africa is complete without experiencing its remarkable cultural heritage, from the colourful street art in Maboneng (dubbed by Vogue "the coolest neighbourhood in **Johannesburg**"), to the Zululand Cultural Villages in KwaZulu-Natal, not to mention a total of 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites dotted across the country.

Pay a visit to the **Apartheid Museum**, which tells the story of South Africa's struggle for democracy, take a township tour to learn about the daily lives of South Africa's black communities, or head to **The Cradle of Humankind** in the **Gauteng** province – a place of significant scientific importance which holds the clues to the origins of humankind dating back several million years.

SIX SENSES HOTELS & RESORTS



SIX SENSES SOUTHERN DUNES SAUDI ARABIA

OPENING LATE 2023

NEW HOTEL OPENINGS



SIX SENSES KANUHURA MALDIVES

DESERT ADVENTURES

Discover the enigmatic destination of Saudi Arabia at Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea: an arresting escape in the country's north-west Tabuk Region – one of the Arabian peninsula's most historically significant areas, blessed with top-notch topography and terrain, including volcanic craters, vast mountain ranges, desert dunes and countless archaeological wonders. The first resort opening within Saudi's vast 11,000-square-mile Red Sea Destination, set along the Kingdom's west coast with sustainability at its core, Southern Dunes is a slick base from which to discover the essence of Saudi's hospitality, its diverse heritage and culture, and array of unbridled adventures. Each corner of the property reflects an artistic expression inspired by the Bedouin heritage. Dining experiences combine the region's rich culinary culture with freshly grown ingredients. And the spa's wondrous world of well-being, self-improvement and inner peace incorporates local healing traditions enhanced by innovation and the very latest technology – all set amidst the tranquillity and serenity of the Alnesai Dunes.





colour, culture & creature comforts

At the heart of the resort, its design inspired by a desert flower, the Oasis complex will play host to a choice of vibrant activities, the reception, lobby lounge, boutique, community lounge and Earth Lab, while an Artisan Village will host four pods to tell the story of the region's history and cultural heritage through arts and crafts, dance and music. Completing the picture will be two signature restaurants, an outdoor pool, fitness centre and, of course, a world-class Six Senses Spa.

Thirty-six rooms and suites surround the Oasis, all featuring an open-plan bedroom and living area, and an outdoor terrace to enjoy the serene desert setting and nature as far as the eye can see. Meanwhile 40 one- to four-bedroom pool villas – including the jaw-dropping, four-bedroom Sunset Reserve – occupy strategic peaks across the resort for prime-time views. These glorious dunes-inspired villas, with double-layered undulating roofs, boast interiors that reflect the tones and textures of their backdrop and soft furnishings that draw from the rich colours and patterns of traditional tribal dress.



every day a different story

Five restaurants, inspired by the region's rich culinary culture and enhanced by fresh, locally sourced ingredients, include Al Sarab, a regional Arabic specialty restaurant and bar; the Pool Bar and Grill, where a range of refreshments, salads, grills and pizza are served from lunch until sunset; all-day dining venue, Bariya; and Merkaz Brew Bar – a sterling spot for snacks and Arabic tapas by day and themed menus for dining under the stars. The cooking school and private chef's table help guests of all ages learn the secrets of Saudi's relatively undiscovered local gastronomy and offer exclusive and entertaining private dinners by night. Add to that Gelato Ice-Cream and destination dining in out-of-the-ordinary locations in and around the resort, and every day is an incredible culinary adventure.



oasis in the desert

Set over two floors, the upper floor of Six Senses' 3974-square-metre spa has a state-of-the-art gym and fitness suite with unrivalled views of the desert to help take your mind off your workout. The lower floor is home to the spa's treatment rooms and wet area, which features self-shaded water surfaces and deep cold pools – a fabulous foil to the sizzling temperatures outside. Highlights include a Holistic Anti-Aging Centre, male and female beauty treatments, a sensory suite with a meditation dome and outdoor treatment cabanas with a relaxation area and a pool bar. Local Arabic influences have also been brought into the wellness journey with notes of Frankincense, reminiscent of the region's incense heritage.

AN ICONIC ISLAND, REBORN

SIX SENSES KANUHURA
MALDIVES

A laid-back retreat and a real natural beauty, with one of the largest beaches in the Maldives, Six Senses Kanuhura encompasses three private islands, with powdery white sand, azure lagoons, lush tropical greenery, gardens blossoming with rare and colourful orchids, gently swaying palm trees to doze under, and the lagoon right at your feet.

immersive maldivian experiences

Just a short seaplane ride from Malé or Lhaviyani Atoll, the resort boasts 91 spacious Beach, Family and Overwater Villas that blend natural elegance with a cool, contemporary vibe. Explore the vibrant reefs while snorkelling, dive into some of the Maldives' most diverse and colourful sites and sample the array of watersports; head to one of two private islands for a castaway lunch or a romantic day in the sun; indulge in a relaxing spa treatment; take a dip in the 472-square-metre free-form pool just steps from the beach or the 393-square-metre infinity pool at The Point (set on the island's northern tip); or take a stroll along the sands for your morning workout. And, if you don't want to do anything at all, just sit back, relax and enjoy the endless ocean views.



overwater tranquility or beachfront seclusion

A fab collection of one- to three-bedroom villas – the majority of which have private pools – can be found just footsteps from the eye-popping beaches or perched on stilts over the tranquil lagoon, so there are lots of flexible options for couples, families, and larger groups alike. Each fuses a tropical island vibe with full-on feet-up comfort. Benefitting from the island's iconic sunset views, Six Senses Kanuhura's 12 new retreats provide the utmost sense of space and comfort in a prime beachfront location. And, true to the brand's philosophy of being in harmony with the environment, everything is crafted from local and sustainable materials.



sensory spa journeys

Submit to a sensory journey of restoration as nature's hands restore your balance... Allow the powers of the ocean and local Maldivian ingredients to heal and nourish your skin and soul... Six Senses Kanuhura's high-touch treatments are every bit the relaxing spa escape. Instant results to overcome jet lag can be found in the Biohacking Lounge, where tools include compression therapy, vibrational pain relief, a rejuvenating face mask and more. Treatment journeys, meanwhile, start with a little extra "me time" when you use the male or female heat experience journey. The mixture of hot and cold water pools is the ideal pre-treatment and mind and body soother to get back out there and enjoy precious "we time" with your favourite people in this ravishing Indian Ocean hideaway.



eat with six senses

At Six Senses Kanuhura, fresh, local and sustainably sourced ingredients come together in every tasty bite. Many of the world's cuisines are represented at the restaurants, including influences from South East Asia, Italy, Spain, India and Japan; but all have one thing in common – ingredients from the resort's organic garden, from local fishermen and farmers, or from the wider region. Following the Eat with Six Senses global initiative, which focuses on healthy and sustainable eating, the international culinary team here combines flavours and aromas to bring the most delicious dishes from East and West to your plate.



family fun

Helping their younger guests explore, learn, grow and, most importantly, have fun during their holiday, the Grow with Six Senses kids' club welcomes children from three to 11 years and offers all sorts of creative, educational, fun indoor and outdoor activities. From treasure hunts and creating art from recycled materials, to kids' yoga, little ones will always be entertained. For teens, the Island Hideout means they can sit back, relax and enjoy games with their peers in a space that's been specially designed just for them. And, as well as the awesome watersports, the collection of activities for everyone to enjoy together is something else... Think cooking classes, guided snorkelling, family picnics and delectable private dining experiences.



EGYPT

CAIRO | NILE CRUISE | LUXOR | ASWAN

10 DAYS

Day 1 – Cairo

With two full days in Cairo, you can cover an awful lot of ground, so once you've arrived at the Marriott Mena House – your home for the next three nights, set at the base of the Pyramids – why not take a stroll through the lush gardens, a dip in the sparkling outdoor pool or relax and revive at the serene Saray Spa before the adventure really gets going?

Stay: Marriott Mena House, Cairo

Cutting a green swathe through the desert dunes, the River Nile is a fantastic way to explore Cairo's ancient monuments, spell-binding Luxor and the mighty Aswan Dam. See them all on our exhilarating Egyptian escapade... And, if you need a lie down after all that sightseeing, head to the Red Sea for the ultimate in R&R.

Day 2 – Cairo

After a leisurely breakfast, start your day with a visit to the **Great Pyramids of Giza**, the only present-day survivors of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, built over 4500 years ago as giant tombs for the mummies of the Pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, who were father, son and grandson. The pyramids are monumental in scale, with the largest, Khufu's, constructed from over two million blocks. The pyramids were not built by slaves but by Egyptian peasants, whose labour in building the pyramids paid their taxes to the Pharaoh, who also fed, clothed and housed them.

Nearby sits the enigmatic **Sphinx** with the body of a lion and the face of a man wearing a royal head cloth, which workers may have based on King Khafre to guard his enormous funerary monument. About a thousand years after the Sphinx was built, it was covered in sand until a young prince had a dream in which the Sphinx told him that if he cleared the sand away, he would become Pharaoh.

After lunch at a local restaurant, head to the **Pyramids of Sakkara**, the former necropolis (cemetery) for the ancient Egyptian city of Memphis and the place where the very first pyramids were built as tombs for kings. Instead of the smooth sides featured on other pyramids, the pyramids here feature six steps on the outside, representing the Pharaoh's stepladder to Heaven. Discover the famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the first pyramid ever built and the world's oldest free-standing stone structure. Admire the incredible tomb art too, which gives excellent insight into the lives of the ancient Egyptians.

Stay: Marriott Mena House, Cairo



Day 3 – Cairo

After breakfast at your hotel, pay a visit to the **Egyptian Museum of Antiquities**. Exhibiting over 120,000 objects in its 107 halls, the museum boasts the world's greatest collection of Ancient Egyptian artefacts. Be sure to venture into the museum's fascinating Mummy Room, which houses 11 royal Kings and Queens of ancient Egypt, including the Great Ramses II, Egypt's longest ruling Pharaoh.

After lunch, head to **Abdeen Palace**, constructed in 1863 on the order of Khedive Ismail as part of the plan for a modern Cairo. Inspired by the architecture coming out of Paris at the time, the plan was to have the Palace finished by the opening of the 1869 Suez Canal, but the 500 rooms weren't completed until 1874. The Palace acted as the royal residence until the monarchy was abolished in 1952. Walk through the front archway to explore the museum which features a diverse collection of weapons and medals and admire the astonishing architecture.

Stay: Marriott Mena House, Cairo



Day 4 – Luxor

This morning it's time to fly from Cairo to Luxor where you'll then transfer to the **Sanctuary Zein Nile Château**, an impressive dahabiya (traditional Egyptian sailing boat), available for private charter only. Enjoy lunch on-board then visit the East Bank, where you can choose to visit **Karnak Temple**, built more than 1000 years ago by generations of Pharaohs; its colossal **Hypostyle Hall** a fantastical forest of giant pillars, covering an area larger than Notre Dame Cathedral.

Alternatively, head to the strikingly graceful **Temple of Luxor**, dedicated to the god Amun, and once connected to Karnak via the Avenue of Sphinxes, almost three kilometres in length. Built by Amenhotep III in 1380 BC, the site was added to by later Pharaohs; its temple hosting many celebrations, the most important being the **Festival of Opet** which lasted almost a month.

You could pay a visit to the informative and super-entertaining **Luxor Museum**, where displays of pottery, jewellery, furniture, statues and stelae were created by the Brooklyn Museum of New York.

And finally, don't miss the dramatic **Sound and Light Show at Karnak Temple** – a thrilling walking tour through the history of the world's largest-ever temple complex, narrated by the voices of the Pharaohs. Shadows play off the enormous columns in the grand Hypostyle Hall, creating a decidedly mysterious effect.

Stay: Sanctuary Zein Nile Château in Luxor (both afternoon tea and dinner are served on-board).



Day 5 – Luxor & Esna

After breakfast on-board, explore the **Valley of the Kings**, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent tombs were carved into the desert rocks, decorated richly and filled with treasures for the afterlife by generations of Pharaohs. Then head to the West Bank, home to the Valley of the Queens, Hatshepsut Temple, the Valley of Workers, the Tombs of the Nobles, Medinet Habu or the Ramesseum Temple.

There are between 75 and 80 tombs in the **Valley of the Queens**, or Biban al-Harim, belonging to Queens of the 18th, 19th and 20th Dynasties. It is called the Place of Beauty by the Egyptians and is where the Pharaohs' wives and children were buried.

Rising out of the desert plain in a series of dazzling white terraces, **Hatshepsut Temple** – the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut – merges with the sheer limestone cliffs that surround it. Forming a natural rock amphitheatre, this temple was an important religious and funerary site.

The remains of the **Valley of Workers (Deir El Medina)**, the self-contained village on the West Bank where the workers who built the kings' and queens' tombs lived in mud-brick houses with their families, give archaeologists a vivid view of how urban people lived in ancient Egypt. You can also visit the tombs that the workers created for themselves. Nearby you've also got the **Temple of Deir El Medina**, from Ptolemaic times.

Also on the West Bank sits the **Tombs of the Nobles** – 400 tombs of Theban aristocrats, some of which you can enter. The tomb walls were white-washed and painted with murals of the nobles' daily lives, making them quite different from royal tombs, where relief work focused on judgment and resurrection. Since the tombs were not sealed, some have since deteriorated.

The magnificent **Medinet Habu** is a series of temples built by the Pharaoh Ramses III (1182-1151 BC) and second only to Karnak Temple in size and complexity. The most monumental is the **Mortuary Temple of Ramses III**, decorated with relief work depicting his many military victories. With its massive mud-brick enclosure that held storehouses, workshops, administrative offices and residences of priests and officials, Medinet Habu grew into a city that maintained its population well into Coptic times.

The Ramesseum Temple, the Mortuary Temple of Ramses II, was built early in the Great Pharaoh's reign and was 20 years in the making. Here you'll see the broken granite Colossus of Ramses II, a 1000-ton statue in which the fingers alone are over one metre long, which also inspired the famous poem 'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley. This temple reportedly rivalled the wonders of Ramses II's temple at Abu Simbel.

Once you reach Esna, visit the **Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum**. The beautifully preserved Great Hypostyle Hall was built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius; it was excavated from the silt that had accumulated through centuries of annual Nile floods and is about nine metres below present-day street level.

Stay: Sanctuary Zein Nile Château in Esna



Day 6 – Esna to Edfu

Enjoy breakfast on-board, then explore the largest and best-preserved Pharaonic – albeit Greek-built – temple in Egypt, the extraordinary **Temple of Horus** at Edfu.

Take lunch and afternoon tea on-board with your afternoon at leisure. Dinner can also be enjoyed on-board if you prefer.

Stay: Sanctuary Zein Nile Château in Edfu



Day 8 - Kom Ombo & Aswan

Following breakfast, visit **Kom Ombo**. In this Ptolemaic temple shared by two gods – Sobek and Horus the Elder – everything is duplicated symmetrically, with double hallways, doors and chambers.

Sail to Aswan as you tuck into lunch on-board.

Once you arrive in **Aswan**, choose between a visit to the Philae Temple, the Unfinished Obelisk or Kalabsha Temple, followed by a trip to the Spice Market.

According to the Ancient Egyptians, Isis – goddess of purity, sexuality, nature and protection – travelled all over Egypt gathering her husband Osiris' remains after he was cut to pieces by his evil brother. On Philae Island, where she found his heart, the Egyptians built a sacred temple – the **Philae Temple** – for Isis. During the building of the High Dam, Philae Island was submerged by water, so UNESCO helped transport the temple complex to nearby Agilika Island, which is where you see it today.

The massive **Unfinished Obelisk** was abandoned in Aswan's Northern Quarry when a crack was found as it was being carved from the red granite. Tools left behind show how builders accomplished such splendid work.

The Temple of Kalabsha (also Temple of Mandulis) is an Ancient Egyptian temple which was originally located at Bab al-Kalabsha (Gate of Kalabsha), approximately 50 kilometres south of Aswan. The temple was situated on the West Bank of the Nile River in Nubia and was originally built around 30 BC during the early Roman era.

After another busy day of sightseeing, enjoy dinner on-board the dahabiya.

Stay: Sanctuary Zein Nile Château in Aswan

Day 7 – Selsela

Breakfast is served as you sail to **Selsela**, an ancient Egyptian site around 26 miles south of Edfu, 14 miles north of Kom Ombo and set in an area where the River Nile narrows. It was known in ancient times as Khenu (Place of Rowing) and here the bedrock changes from limestone to sandstone. This is the border of the Egyptian region of Nubia and, in ancient times, Egyptians believed that the Nile originated here. Lunch is available on-board as you continue sailing to Kom Ombo. Afternoon tea and dinner are also served on-board.

Stay: Sanctuary Zein Nile Château in Kom Ombo



Day 9 – Aswan to Cairo

Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return flight to Cairo. Tonight, enjoy dinner at one of Egypt's finest restaurants on the River Nile; **Pier 88 Nile River** – Italian fine-dining set within the renowned **Imperial Boat** on the banks of the Nile. Chef Giorgio Diana has received two Michelin stars for his Mediterranean menus which mix the traditional with the contemporary. The set menus with wine pairings provide a creative tasting that really spoils the senses.

Stay: Four Seasons Hotel Cairo

Day 10 - Cairo

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to Cairo Airport for your onward flight.

LAZY DAYS



FOUR SEASONS RESORT SHARM EL SHEIKH

A Red Sea haven reminiscent of an authentic Arabian village, interlinked with courtyards adorned with fountains and sculpted gardens, that seemingly cascade down the hillside to the glittering crystal-blue waters.

Packed with every conceivable luxury, amenity and comfort that you could want from your Red Sea escape, Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh boasts sleek, modern accommodations, panoramic sea views, an expanded dive centre, a glorious spa and a complimentary Kids For All Seasons programme to keep 4-12-year-olds fully entertained.

Limestone cliffs embrace two-thirds of a mile of private beachfront, with crystalline waters and access to a protected marine reserve, while five refreshing pools each come with cabanas and drinks service. Families love the palm-fringed Waha Pool and adjacent Aladdin Pool, unbeatable for little ones with its shallow depth of just 60 centimetres. The Luna infinity pool, with majestic views out to Tiran Island and beyond, is heaven for those who want to soak up the rays – and perhaps enjoy a Latin American-inspired cocktail or two alongside the alluring poolscape from the poolside Luna restaurant.

Spacious rooms and oversized suites offer a choice of modern design or traditional Arabian décor. There's a multitude of alfresco dining options and an abundance of authentic desert and sea adventures, historical sites and diverse landscapes close-by, like the 6th-century St Catherine's Monastery with a chapel enclosing what was supposedly Moses' Burning Bush; and adventurous desert expeditions to the majestic Sinai Mountains.

SON BUNYOLA HOTEL

MALLORCA

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME AWAITS

It was just over a year ago that Virgin Limited Edition first shared the news that they had lovingly started developing the historic finca on Sir Richard Branson's idyllic 1300-acre Mallorcan estate into an intimate luxury hotel. Fast forward to June 2023 and Son Bunyola Hotel's first guests were welcomed inside the newest addition to the brand's collection of luxury retreats! And now it's your turn to make Son Bunyola Hotel your base to experience everything Mallorca has to offer.

Right at the heart of Son Bunyola's 1300-acre estate, in Mallorca's Tramuntana Mountains, the 16th-century Finca – or manor house – has lovingly been developed into a brand-new, intimate luxury hotel. Honouring the heritage of this historic building has been central to the restoration project, with traditional and local materials at the core of the hotel's design. Every single detail has been carefully thought out and Virgin Limited Edition has proudly retained all the original features, which is fundamental to the history of the local area.

Twenty-six beautifully designed rooms and suites each have their own distinct character, charm and soaring views, with some of the suites also boasting show-stopping 360-degree sea and mountain views. The original towers in the main house have also been transformed into two Tower Suites showcasing vineyard views and the mountains beyond; while the historic terrace is home to the pool and the former olive press.

When it comes to dining, expect truly authentic Mallorcan dishes. Head Chef Samuel favours a farm-to-fork ethos and much of the produce is grown in the estate's gardens and orchards. Sa Terrassa, the hotel's main restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, offers dishes using local and seasonal ingredients; while Sa Tafona, housed within the historic olive press, offers a playful take on tapas in the evenings.

This vast, glorious estate is also part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is believed to have been inhabited for thousands of years, with stones scattered around the area that date back to the Bronze Age. Today, it's the perfect place to unwind, relax by the pool, indulge in some much-needed self-care with a spa treatment, or enjoy a spot of yoga and tennis, all whilst enjoying the awe-inspiring views of the Mediterranean Sea and the peaks of the Tramuntana Mountains. Or, if you'd prefer a more energetic day full of activities, the mountainous landscape provides awesome opportunities for you to explore its many hiking or cycling routes (some of the island's best). There are some compelling creative and culinary experiences for you to get stuck into. You could also venture further afield to discover the picturesque villages dotted along the island's unspoilt north-west coast. Or head to the Mallorcan beaches and set sail out on those tranquil Mediterranean waters. Then, as the sun sets, head to the intoxicating jasmine and bougainvillea-filled courtyard for pre-dinner drinks before sitting down for a feast of delicious local dishes at Sa Terrassa.









LUXURY VILLAS OF BARBADOS

Escape from everyday life, embrace the freedom of choice, and experience a world of sensational luxuries with your own private place to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with peace and tranquillity.

Booking an exclusive luxury villa – with everything from vibrant views, translucent turquoise waters lapping against bewitching beaches, just steps from your door, sumptuous sunset dining and an eclectic mix of unforgettable activities – is a terrific alternative to a hotel. You're in full control of your holiday, meaning you get to share private, unforgettable experiences with your nearest and dearest, spend valuable time with loved ones, or celebrate life with your closest friends for a wedding, a party, or a good old-fashioned get-together.



Start your holiday as you intend to continue: kicking back and relaxing on-board with British Airways. With an ever-expanding route network, new airline partnerships and access to almost 600 destinations the world over, there's every kind of check-in service you could hope for – online, on your mobile with a whizzy smartphone boarding pass, or self-service at the airport, plus an excellent choice of travel classes. And that's not all. Enjoy an advanced audio-visual entertainment system of TV, films and audio; over 60 dedicated British Airways lounges and 90 partner lounges across the world and delicious in-flight cuisine created by leading chefs, plus fun, healthy children's menus.