



Sand Rivers Selous, Tanzania

Just a 45-minute micro-plane flight from Dar es Salaam, is one of Tanzania's most beautiful, tranquil and private wildlife havens, Sand Rivers Selous. Whether it's dinner under the stars or private river cruise to on-foot safari and fly camping, it offers the open-minded bush-lover a place to explore where no two days will be the same. As great white pelicans flock overhead, herds of elephants take afternoon swims and lions dose under the African sun, you can do as little or as much as you please. Our advice... watch the sunset from your private plunge pool, 'rough it' on a fly camping trip and swap safari stories over sundowners in the bar with fellow travellers. *From Dhs2,295 a night; Nomad-tanzania.com*

HOTEL OF THE MONTH

Sunset over Sand Rivers Selous

ESCAPE NEWS

Travel tips, hot hotels and the new must-visit destinations

CITY VS BEACH

From sandy beaches to city streets – where will you head?



Sleek and chic at Town Hall Hotel



Nature and nurture at Rosewood Mayakoba

CITY SLICKER

Town Hall Hotel, London

This East End boutique hotel reinvents vintage cool with its Art Deco, loft-chic interiors and polished-to-perfection marble floors (careful in those heels). Stay in one of the 'feature' rooms for true grandeur, while those-in-the-know dine at Michelin-starred Viajente restaurant. We won't spoil the secret, but try the 12-course tasting menu and you'll know what all the fuss is about. *From Dhs700 a night; Townhallhotel.com*

BEACH RETREAT

Rosewood Mayakoba, Mexico

Offset your carbon footprint at the eco-friendly Mayakoba resort in Riviera Maya, which strikes the perfect balance between nature and humanity. The mile-long sandy white beach does wonders for the soul, and it's both private and peaceful. Make a Deluxe Overwater Lagoon Suite your home and watch your own wildlife show from the comfort of your plunge pool. Bliss. *From Dhs2,754 a night; Rosewoodhotels.com*



DESIGNS ON DIOR

With pop-up stores the new-fashion fad of this decade, Dior is continuing its exclusive seven-city pop-up project at Maxfield on Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles on March 15, celebrating Raf Simons' first ready-to-wear collection for the French maison. Expect an A-list launch party, special window displays, exclusive pieces and a queue as far as the eye can see.



Fashion's hottest hotel, Le Gray

FASHION WEEK

As the fast-pack descends on Lebanon for **Beirut Fashion Week**, March 24-27, bed down at the most fabulous hotel the city has to offer, **Le Gray**. Its special promotion means you can bag a premium room for just Dhs1,138 a night, including breakfast. Kick off those heels and join us for post-show sundowners in the rooftop bar. *From Dhs1,138 a night; Legray.com*

CAROLINA HERRERA's second store in Saudi Arabia has opened in Mall of Dhahran. Hot foot it there and stock up on its pretty S/S13 buys...

ART ATTACK

This month's fashion exhibition and where the arty circle stay

Get your culture fix in New York this month, with *Shoe Obsession* at The Museum at FIT (*Fitnyc.edu*) until April 13, which looks at our culture's



Roger Vivier's 'Eyelash' shoe, at The Museum at FIT

ever-growing fascination with extravagant and fashionable footwear. While in the Big Apple, bed down at one of these two amazing art hotels:

The James New York

This daring hotel is eye-catching inside and out, with each of its 14 floors dedicated to local and emerging artist. But it's not just about curated artworks, the award-winning David Burke Kitchen is *the* restaurant for those who like to eat in all the right places. *From Dhs977 a night; Jameshotels.com/newyork*



Cosy-up at Gramercy Park Hotel's terrace

Gramercy Park Hotel

A luxury boutique hotel where the fast-pack flock and 20th century art from the likes of Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst and Julian Schnabel line the walls. We love the Gramercy Terrace and Garden, which is the five star semi-alfresco equivalent to a picnic in Central Park. *From Dhs1,285 a night; Gramercyparkhotel.com*



Bag, Dhs1,572, Kate Spade

Sunglasses, Dhs2,035, Oscar de la Renta at Boutique 1

Dress, Dhs8,200, Donna Karan at Bloomingdale's

WHAT TO PACK

Get fresh for a fabulous weekend away, New York-designer style.

Shoes, Dhs3,655, Marc Jacobs

Jacket, Dhs8,200, Oscar de la Renta at Harvey Nichols



North Kafue National Park, Zambia



Whywander.com's travel guru, Reem Shaath

PLACE IN THE SUN

Reem Shaath, from *Whywander.com* the Middle Eastern bespoke luxury travel service, gives us her S/S13 travel lowdown

MARCH'S TRAVEL HOTSPOTS

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, as they're still relatively undiscovered. With daily flights from Dubai to Ho Chi Minh, you can easily do a 10-day trip. Siem Reap is drenched in history, while watching the sun rise over Angkor Wat is a must. For a luxury beach getaway, Song Saa Private Island is new and hip yet intimate. Don't miss Hoi An (stay at the Nam Hai) and head to **Hanoi** to see Halong Bay, a natural wonder that still dazzles.

ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

Zambia is the new place to go on safaris. Chinzombo Camp (which comes from the same designers who did the ultra-hip barefoot luxury North Island in the Seychelles) opens March 1, has only six villas and introduces a whole new level of private luxury in the bush.

SHORT-HAUL STAYCATION

Amanwella in Sri Lanka to stay at Amanwella hotel; here it's all about relaxation and what more can you ask for than a beautiful empty beach virtually to yourself, in a



Bhutan



Maldives

stunning location, staying in revamped suites with private pools. Only four hours from Dubai, it's the perfect place to relax and pamper yourself, with delicious food and elephants, too!

MUST-SEES

Mozambique: Vamizi Island, because it's cool to go on a beach holiday in Africa. **Japan:** to see the



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Tuscany

cherry blossom, tuna auction at 5am and to eat some of amazing fresh sushi.

Bhutan: because we want to see what the happiest people on earth look like! **Morocco's Atlas Mountains:** Richard Branson's Kasbah Tamadot re-opens soon with five new Berber tents, complete with plunge pools, hot tubs and 360 stellar view.

Brazil: It was number 1 in *New York Times*' Top 46 Places To Visit in 2013.

FAVE HOLIDAYS

Bali, for the peace of mind and inspiration it gives me. And **Italy**, for the sights, sounds, tastes and beyond.



Cherry blossom, Japan

NEWS FLASH: Venture somewhere new this month, as Emirates has just launched daily flights to Algiers. For details, visit Emirates.com