

Harper's BAZAAR

EDITED BY FRANCES HIBBARD

ESCAPE

Nikoi Island, Indonesia.

All I want for CHRISTMAS

... is a boarding pass. *FRANCES HIBBARD*
plays Santa with a wanderlust-inspired wish list

1 Bintan babe

Barefoot luxury is a term that gets bandied about often, but at Nikoi Island, off the coast of Bintan, they mean it. Driftwood and grass roofing speak to Nikoi's Indonesian location while making the most of local materials. The stilt beach houses' double-layered roof systems and deep terraces negate the need for air-conditioning. Most of the island remains rainforest, and working with the local community is a key component of the Nikoi philosophy: so far, Nikoi has set up six libraries as part of its Island Foundation work, with 500 children registered for English and IT lessons.

Nikoi Island is reached by high-speed catamaran from Singapore. Bring along the whole family. www.nikoi.com.



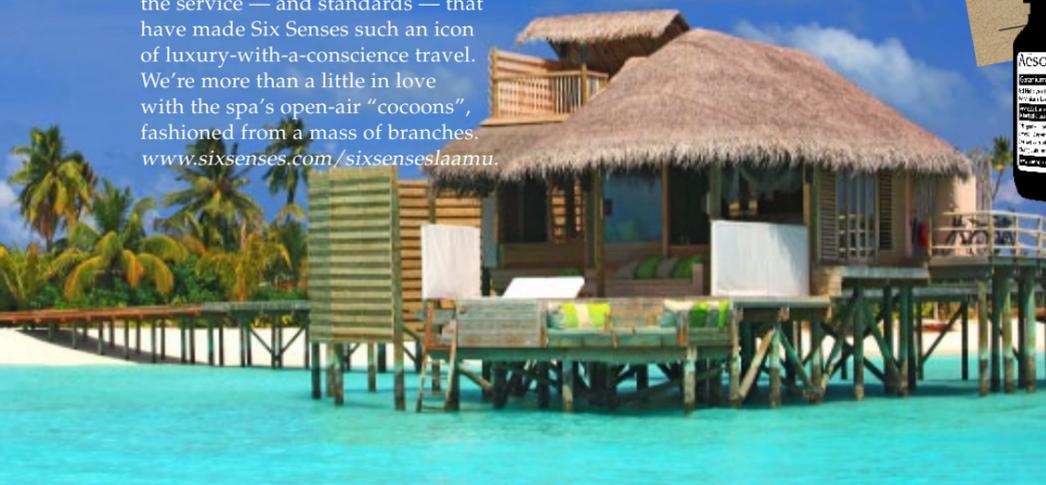
ESCAPE

2 MALDIVES MOMENT

If it's good enough to lure Helena Christensen and Richard Branson ...

You'll be mesmerised by the new Six Senses Laamu: a private atoll, coral reefs, a world-class surfing break and the service — and standards — that have made Six Senses such an icon of luxury-with-a-conscience travel. We're more than a little in love with the spa's open-air "cocoon", fashioned from a mass of branches. www.sixsenses.com/sixsenseslaamu.

Water villa at Six Senses Laamu, Maldives.



"This world is but a canvas to our imaginations." Henry David Thoreau

JET SET

Travel can be arduous, no matter how thrilling the destination. Aesop recommends a pre-flight walk, a nutritious meal, and liberal use of the four bottles in this kit to help you arrive in top form.

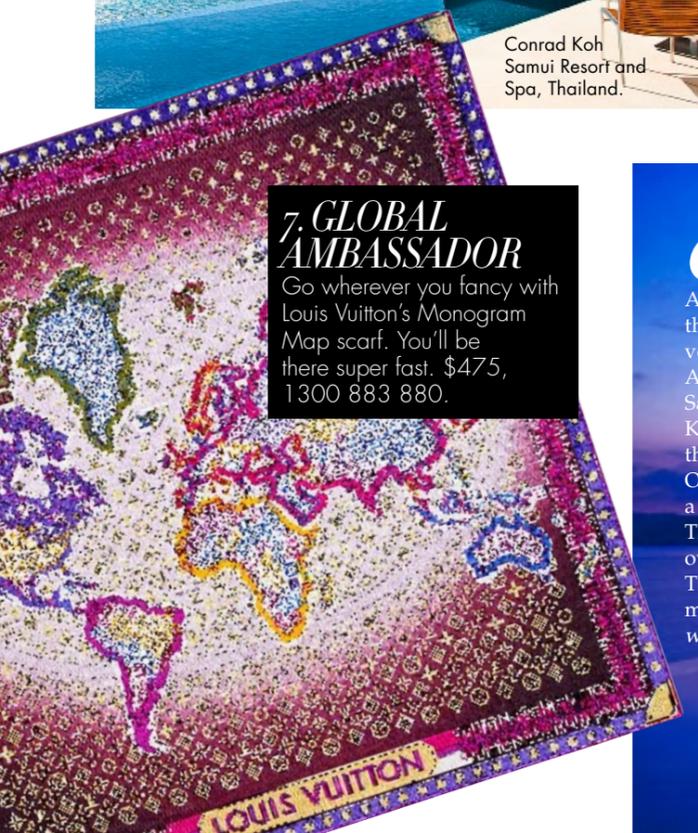
3. A-LIST AMENITIES KIT

Tackle any time-zone change with Aesop's retro-cool Jet Set kit (featuring shampoo, conditioner and more), \$39, available at Aesop's global outlets, including the new NYC and Tokyo boutiques, or at www.aesop.com.

4 THAILAND STOPOVER

Break the long European haul with a stopover at the new Conrad Koh Samui. Here on the island's quiet southern tip, you'll find the brand new resort's freestanding villas, staggered down a promontory facing the Gulf of Thailand. Drink in the views (or a cocktail) from the privacy of your 10-metre infinity pool. www.conradhotels1.hilton.com

Conrad Koh Samui Resort and Spa, Thailand.



7. GLOBAL AMBASSADOR

Go wherever you fancy with Louis Vuitton's Monogram Map scarf. You'll be there super fast. \$475, 1300 883 880.

5. REEF FISH

It pioneered Australian island glamour, and now Queensland's Hayman Island is back on song, with a fully landscaped look by Jamie Durie and stylish new beach villas.

Here, where the Coral Sea shimmers, it's easy to feel you're in paradise.

Be sure to try the new Fontaine restaurant, with its romantic dining platforms. www.hayman.com.au.

6. JETTISON THE JET LAG

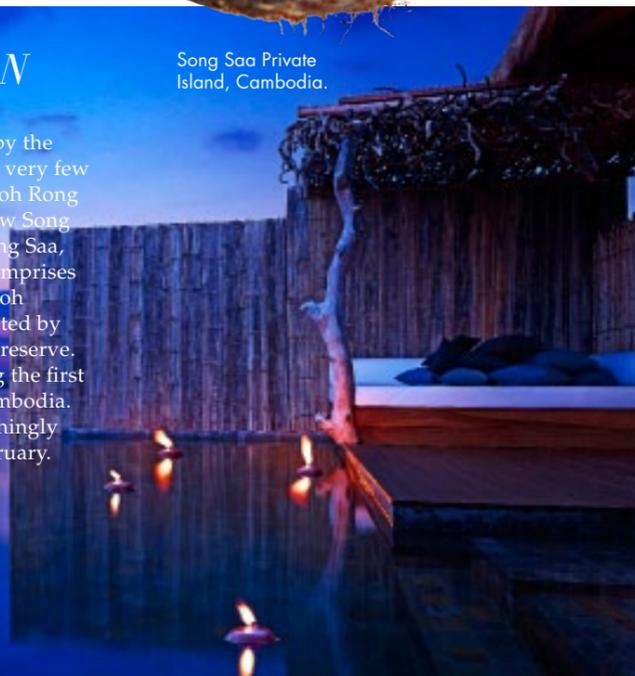
Seeing the world is great. Jet lag is not. Fight the drying effect of too much time at altitude by slurping coconut water once you've landed. Ultra-hydrating, it'll transport you back to somewhere exotic. We like H2Coco coconut water, \$3.50. www.h2coco.com.au.



8. A NEW ASIAN FLAVOUR

Angkor Wat draws tourists by the thousands to Cambodia, but very few venture on to the unspoilt Koh Rong Archipelago, home to the new Song Saa Private Island resort. Song Saa, Khmer for "sweethearts", comprises the side-by-side islands of Koh Ouen and Koh Bong, connected by a footbridge over its marine reserve. There are 27 villas, including the first overwater bungalows in Cambodia. The sense of luxury is refreshingly minimal. Check in from February. www.songsaa.com.

Song Saa Private Island, Cambodia.



The QT Gold Coast hotel.



9. COAST WITH THE MOST

The time is right to reconnect with the Gold Coast. A foreshore restoration has opened up Surfers Paradise for the first time in 20 years and the luxury quotient is increasing by the day. The Gold Coast International is now the QT: the first in a new design-driven hotel brand for Australia. Also new is the Hilton Surfers Paradise: a dual tower in the centre of the action, with self-contained residences and a Luke Mangan restaurant. The Sheraton Mirage's facelift will soon be complete, and the opening of the Sea Temple residences in the recently built Soul complex then follows. Reconsider.

10. TRAVELLING COMPANION

Bezoar Cashmere's elegant wrap is a non-negotiable carry-on inclusion, performing triple duty as a pillow, scarf or blanket. A must-pack addition that's practical in flight and perfect on the ground. \$300, (02) 9328 7536.



11. FIRST-CLASS FACE

Crème de la Mer's The Radiant Serum is the tried, tested and ticked secret of those frequent flyers you see glowing with good health as they step off the plane, in spite of all that recycled cabin air. La Mer The Radiant Serum travel set, \$495, 1800 661 392.

NATURALLY RELAXING

12. TRAVELLING GOURMET

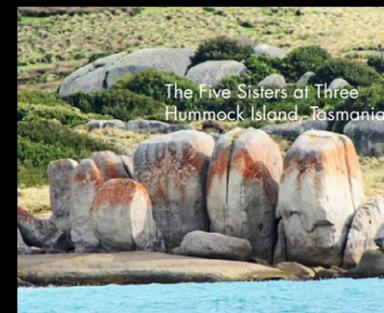
It's Foragers by name and nature at Pemberton in Western Australia, where guests stay in eco-villas and forage — the big food movement made famous by the world's No. 1 restaurant, Noma in Copenhagen — the farm and nearby fields for ingredients, which are then used for cooking classes in the Field Kitchen. There's also the heirloom kitchen garden and heritage fruit orchard from which to pillage, and a raft of rare-breed animals raised on the farm. It's the modern way to get back to nature. Foragers at Pemberton. www.foragers.com.au.

13. REMEMBER TO BREATHE

Flying's tough on your body, so recharge with clean air and some splendid isolation. Three Hummock Island, off Tasmania's isolated north-west tip, is one of the cleanest environments in the world, according to the nearby Baseline Air Pollution Station, and offers accommodation in a just-restored heritage homestead or guest cottage. Beach-comb, read by the combustion stove or marvel at the pristine beauty of it all. It's just you and the island caretakers. Pure bliss. www.threehummockisland.com.au.

14. A COMPLETE PEARLER

The hot ticket for 2012 will come courtesy of two Australian pioneers, in our own remote Far North. Wild Bush Luxury — who brought us Bamurru Plains retreat in the Northern Territory, Sal Salis glamp on Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia and revived the historic Arkaba Station in South Australia's Flinders Ranges — will take guests to Kuri Bay, home of Paspaley's original pearl farm. The remote Buccaneer Archipelago is accessible only by helicopter or sea plane and guests will stay in the restored coastal house formerly used by the pearling family to accommodate VIPs. www.wildbushluxury.com.



The Five Sisters of Three Hummock Island, Tasmania.

Abercrombie & Kent Zambia walking safari.



15. WALK, DON'T RUN

Abercrombie & Kent's new bespoke Zambia walking safaris mean no noisy tour groups or dinner with strangers. Instead, it's just you, the companions of your choosing, your own guide, the expansiveness of the South Luangwa National Park, a luxury tent and the herds of giraffe, zebra and buffalo. All you've got to do is show up between June and October. www.abercrombiekent.com.au/luxury-travel/zszp.cfm.

STILL LIFE: JAMES MOFFATT; GETTY IMAGES

16 DESIGNER DIGS

The most stylish trend in travel right now? Designer digs. Think Bulgari Bali, the Armani Hotel in Dubai and, of course, the original, Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast. Hot on the heels of the Martin Margiela redesign of La Maison Champs Élysées in Paris and launch of the glamorous Tiffany & Co. and Dior suites at the St. Regis NY, we can't wait to see what Christian Lacroix will create at the new Sofitel Bangkok (opening early 2012); how Mr Armani will express himself at the new Armani Hotel in Milan, opening this month; and what Palazzo Versace Dubai will look like (opening early next year). And the Bulgari London, ready in time for the Olympics in July, will be a rare gem.

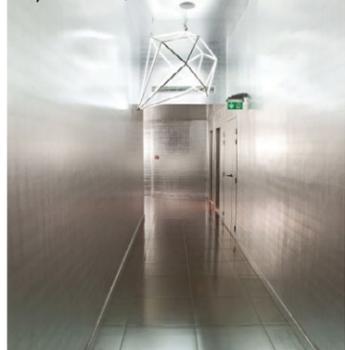


The Dior Suite at the St. Regis, New York.

17 BAGGAGE CLAIMED

Yes, it's all about the luggage. The big statement-maker is London leatherspecialist Globe-Trotter's new collaboration with the house of Asprey.

The Martin Margiela-designed interior of La Maison Champs Élysées hotel, Paris.



Globe-Trotter for Asprey Londoner suitcases, from approximately \$2800 each, www.asprey.com.



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JOY OF THE JOURNEY



Sail away with Le Ponant.

18. TAKE TO THE WATER

There are many ways to explore the high seas and we're particularly fond of French line Compagnie du Ponant, whose Le Ponant is a three-masted sailing ship limited to just 64 people. Embark on one of Le Ponant's exotic journeys, from Caracas in Venezuela, around the Grenadines and on to the French West Indies. Now that's sailing. <http://en.ponant.com>.

19. TRACK STARS

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Consider Orient-Express's seasonal journeys. Our pick? The Shopping on the Rails tour, where guests board the British Pullman and travel across the UK countryside while shopping pop-up stores on board from the likes of Liberty of London and Harrods. www.orient-express.com.



The Darling hotel, Sydney.

20. SET YOUR SIGHTS ON SYDNEY

The Darling is the first five-star hotel to open in the city since the Olympics in 2000. The new hotel, part of the The Star complex (formerly Star City), boasts a eucalyptus-scented pool, VIP suites with their own fireplaces, and incredible views of the harbour. www.thedarling.com.au.

EXOTIC ESCAPADES

21. TOUCHDOWN IN TANZANIA

Nomad Tanzania's new lodge is the heavenly Lamai Serengeti, which seemingly hides among the rocks of the Kogakuria kopje overlooking the Mara River, where the wildebeest cross en masse during the annual migration and leopards stalk the hillsides. Just 12 rooms in two lodges, both masterpieces of canvas, plaster and poles are designed to be as organic and unobtrusive as possible. www.nomad-tanzania.com/north/lamai-serengeti/the-lodge/



Lamai Serengeti, Tanzania.

22. SUBCONTINENTAL SPLENDOUR

Some argue that Devi Garh, a restored fort in the Aravalli mountains outside Udaipur, is India's loveliest hotel. Now it has some rivalry in the form of new sister hotel Devi Ratn, in Rajasthan's capital of Jaipur, and fellow "cousin" Rasa, a very modern version of the tented camp in the hills behind nearby Amer Fort. But the three could not be more different. First-born Devi Garh is the romantic dreamer to Devi Ratn's modern aesthete — all jewel colours and dramatic design — and Rasa's free-thinking futurist, where the Indian nomadic tents get a 21st-century cubist twist. www.deviresorts.in; www.rasaresorts.in.

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23. EGYPTIAN MAGIC

Agatha Christie was writer in residence at the magical Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan, Egypt, when she penned *Death on the Nile*. And indeed the Old Cataract — which has just reopened after a three-year restoration — has an old-world elegance that conjures the glamour of its Christie-era heyday, not to mention awe-inspiring views of Elephantine Island, the Nile and the Nubian Desert. www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-1666-sofitel-legend-old-cataract-aswan.



Devi Ratn, Jaipur, India.

24. MOROCCAN SPOIL

Marrakesh: it's a byword for exoticism, embellishment and mysticism. Among the souks and the spices, there's monumental luxury, from decadent private riads to the grandeur of the legendary La Mamounia Hotel, beloved by everyone from Yves Saint Laurent to Winston Churchill. Upping the ante this month is the Taj Hotel group, already famous for its majestic palace hotels throughout India. The new Taj Palace Marrakech is in the plush Palmeraie area of the city, gazing out at the Atlas Mountains. Expect lashings of luxury. www.tajhotels.com.



Hotel Sofitel Old Cataract Aswan, Egypt.



Taj Palace Marrakech, Morocco.



Cire Trudon Nazareth Limited-edition Triplewick Candle, \$725, (02) 9339 0220.

Still Your Mind Meditation/Yoga blanket, \$90, www.stillyourmind.com.

25 TRAVELLING WITHOUT MOVING

Truth be told, you don't have to leave home to explore the world. Cire Trudon's incredible hand-blown, limited-edition La Grande Bougie Nazareth candle, scented with clove, cinnamon and orange, evokes the spirit of Christmas, wherever you are. And Still Your Mind's new range of meditation candles, cushions and cotton blankets are ideal for helping you soothe your spirit after a long journey. Sit back, breathe and think of your next incredible destination. Available from www.stillyourmind.com.au.

Still Your Mind Meditation Cushions, \$90 each, www.stillyourmind.com.

