

WINTER SUN SPECIAL

Chasing the SUN

Pack your passport and say goodbye to grey skies. Somewhere in the world there's a lounge with your name on it...

TANZANIA + ZANZIBAR = DOUBLE DELIGHT

Be sure to pack those aviator shades, because this twin-centre trip uncovering the wealth of the Tanzanian wildlife is simply dazzling. Via a series of Cessna flights, you'll get the chance to spot the leopards and lions of the Tarangire National Park, catch the hippo, rhinos and zebra of the famous Ngorongoro Crater, and discover the giraffe, elephants and cheetahs of the Serengeti. Then, on the 10th day, you get to swap safari boots for flipflops at The Residence Zanzibar for four days of chilling out, spotting dolphins from a glass-bottomed cruiser, and looking back on all those amazing photos. theluxuryholidaycompany.com

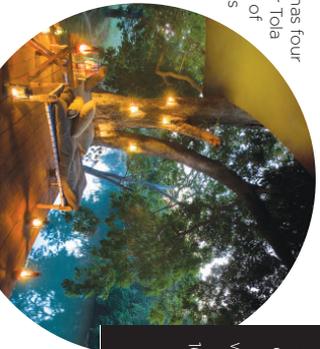


ZANZIBAR CALLING

The average January temperature in this Indian Ocean archipelago is 27°C. In London it's 5°C - you do the maths...

Like that? You'll love...

THE MAGIC OF INDIA Taj Safaris has four glorious lodges, including Banjaraj Toia in Kanha National Park. At the end of a dusty safari, the luxurious tents with their romantic decks round off the perfect day. Or how about the latest Taj property in Nepal: Meghauri Serai in UNESCO World Heritage Chitwan National Park? tajhotels.com



THE RICHES OF COSTA RICA

From catatonic sloths to screaming howler monkeys, the exhilarating Discover Costa Rica experience takes in the kind of wildlife that normally has a David Attenborough voiceover. The 16-day trip staying in eco-friendly lodges and hotels departs until the end of January 2018, from £2,629pp. exodus.co.uk



THE BIG FIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA

We're talking bottlenose dolphins in the waters east of Cape Town, seals and African penguins in Port Elizabeth, and southern right whales just off the Hermanus coastline. And you can see them all with Hayes & Jarvis - adrenaline junkies can even cage dive with a great white shark! From £1,799pp. hayesandjarvis.co.uk



THE BIG BLUE IN SRI LANKA

With a 200-strong pod of blue whales six miles offshore, hotels Cantaloupe Aqua and Cantaloupe Levels are making the most of the ocean's natural wonder. With their Big Blue experience, guests can watch these majestic animals up close and even pay a visit to the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery. cantaloupehotels.com >>



Shout it from the rooftops

The latest resort from Caribbean specialists Sandals is Sandals Royal Barbados, the first to offer a rooftop infinity pool and bar. In another first, Chi Asian is the operator's inaugural Chinese-Japanese fusion restaurant - and one of five choices at the resort. To ring the culinary changes, try a different cuisine every night with the exchange dining programme that includes 11 more restaurants at nearby Sandals Barbados. sandals.com/bb



PERFECT SENSE

The azure waters are a natural wonder for divers at Six Senses Laamu, where dolphins swim and turtles are celebrated with their own festival. sixsenses.com

FLIGHT NEWS

The Seychelles gets a boost from March 2018, when British Airways' relaunch direct flights to the archipelago. With no lengthy layovers in Dubai, Abu Dhabi or Doha, you can afford the 20 minutes it takes the helicopter transfer from Mahé to whisk you to the 650-acre island of Felicite for a stay at Six Senses newest resort; the fabulous 30-villa Zili Pasyon. scotttdun.com

Maldives

SAY MAC 'N' CHEESE

If you thought the US was the place for mac 'n' cheese, the new Mr. Mac artisan truck at Beaches Turks & Caicos may blow that theory out of the turquoise waters. Try the world-famous snack 10 ways, including Cajun and Mediterranean varieties, and follow with an ice-cream from the Curtis n' Swirls vintage Volkswagen truck. Both are part of upgrades at the award-winning resort. beachesresort.co.uk

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FOR FOODIES

When dinner is always the pinnacle of your day...

1. Velaa Private Island, Maldives

Chef Gausman de Silva worked at the royal palace in Jordan, so expect majestic plates at this luxury resort where the guest to staff ratio is 1:8. Break up long days by the pool with a gourmet cooking class or wine-tasting in the Maldives' largest cellar. velaaprivateisland.com

2. Amanpuri, Thailand

The Aman group announced a new culinary concept earlier this year. Called Nama (the reverse of Aman and Japanese for raw), it celebrates washoku - meaning harmony in food. Each resort will tailor the concept to their region's produce; accordingly, the Amanpuri menu will team with seafood from the waters around Phuket. aman.com

3. One@Only, Cape Town, South Africa

Home to Africa's only Nobu, this resort also celebrates local flavours at Reuben's Brasserie, with more casual wood-fired pizzas at poolside Isola. oneandonlyresorts.com

4. Mondrian Doha, Qatar

The architecturally breathtaking Mondrian Doha features two world-class dining experiences - CUT, the Beverly Hills steakhouse from Wolfgang Puck, and Japanese/Western fusion from the legendary Masaharu Morimoto. mondriandoha.com

5. Knai Bang Chant, Cambodia

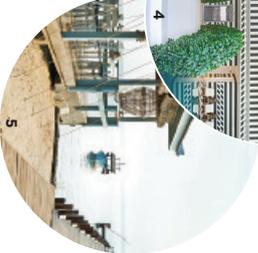
Canada-born Jay Scallie heads the team producing dishes like pan crisp crab cake with tomato shrimp bisque, rose and cherry tomato confit at the hotel's open-air The Strand, and the new Sailing Club Restaurant and Lounge. knaihangchant.com



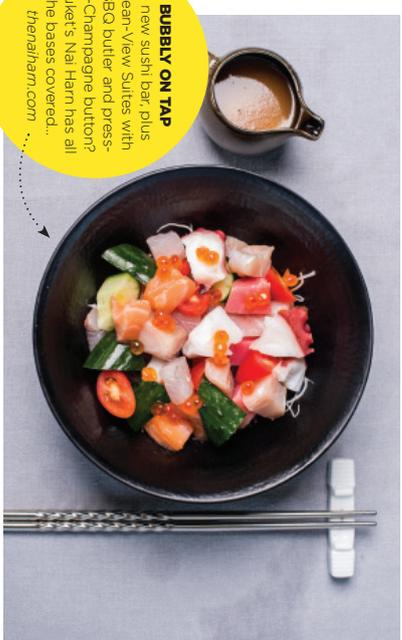
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BUBBLY ON TAP
A new sushi bar, plus Ocean-View Suites with a BBQ butler and press-for-Champagne button? Phuket's Nai Harn has all the bases covered... thenaiharn.com



That's what we call... A VILLA

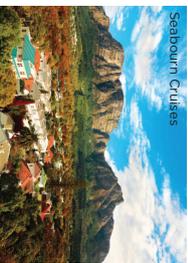
The 10 private villas in the grounds of the stunning Es Saadi resort in Marrakech are out of this world (and probably most people's budget!) You can always dream... essadi.com >>

HOT OFF THE PRESS... Italian-owned Baglioni is bringing la dolce vita to

a 66-villa resort in the Maldives from March 2018. baglionihotels.com

THE JANUARY SAILS

Dust off the deck shoes and hit the high seas for some winter rays



Seabourn Cruises



P&O Cruises

1. Atlantic crossing Join Seabourn on its 19-night winter sailing from Brazil to South Africa and call in at Tristan da Cunha, the remotest island in the world, out in the middle of the South Atlantic. Other stops include the majestic mountains of Cape Town, and the deep lagoon of Namibia's Walvis Bay with its mesmerising pelicans and flamingos. seabourn.com

2. Caribbean jetset Jump aboard the 14-night P&O Cruise from Barbados to Curacao, Aruba, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Tortola, St. Kitts, Antigua and Dominica, and you can literally fly above the water with a thrilling 45-minute jet-board experience in Aruba. Cruise pocruises.com

3. Celebrity Cruises Dig deep into the culture of Abu Dhabi, feast under the stars, and enjoy immersive experiences curated by Celebrity Cruises' destination expert and renowned adventurer, Ben Fogle. From £226pp, part of the 12-night Arabian Sea & India Cruise departing on 2 January 2018. CelebrityCruises.co.uk



Celebrity Cruises

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ABOUT... OCHOS RIOS?

Ochos Rios (eight rivers) has long been a magnet for the glitterati. Noel Coward, Errol Flynn and Bond creator Ian Fleming all enjoyed the Caribbean sun in this corner of northern Jamaica. And, when Marilyn Monroe married Arthur Miller in 1956, they spent their belated honeymoon at Jamaica Inn, a timeless hideaway tucked away on a sandy cove just east of Ochos Rios. With 45 suites and seven cottages with private plunge pools tucked away in the grounds, it's a hard to drag yourself away, but adventurous visitors shouldn't miss nearby Dunn's River Falls. Clambering up this natural phenomenon behind a nimble guide is challenging, fun, and thoroughly deserving of 007's favourite Martini back at the hotel. Jamaicainn.com



That's what we call... A BEDROOM

Walking tours rule for guests at Sand Rivers Selous in Tanzania, so this is the perfect bed to flop onto post-hike and rest your weary body. nomad-tanzania.com

3 FOR SOOTHING THE SOUL

When it's time to nourish the spirit, too

1. Heritage Le Telfair, Mauritius This blissful five-star just reopened, newly boasting a pavilion for Tai Chi, yoga, pilates and Qi Gong, plus bespoke wellness packages. Healthy breakfast corners are part of the holistic approach, plus you can try the massage lesson for two and take your new-found skills home with you. sfn.com/tefair

2. Banyan Tree Samui, Thailand What could sound sweeter than watching trained monkeys picking coconuts on a coconut farm? Well, sampling the Banyan Tree Samui's unique Coconut Immersion Spa treatment comes pretty close. It includes a pineapple and coconut scrub followed by an Island Dew massage, with fresh coconut jelly and juice to finish. banyantree.com

3. Soul & Surf, Sri Lanka This itinerary makes us drool. Yoga before breakfast, catching the waves before lunch, afternoon meditation, then back to the beach for a sunset surf. Just some of the many attractions at Soul and Surf's newest location, a 12-bedroom villa near Ahangama in Sri Lanka's south. soulandsurf.com



KENYA BY THE SEA

Indian Ocean fans should raise Kenya's signature dawa (vodka, honey, lime and sugar) to celebrate the January reopening of the five-star Hemingways Watamu in Watamu Marine National Park, with 13 new deluxe ocean-view rooms. Home to turtles, barracuda, whale sharks and coral reefs, the ocean theme washes into the restaurant too, with dishes such as crispy lamu crab claws and bahari calamari. hemingways-collection.com

LUXURY ESCAPES

HOT OFF THE PRESS... Six Senses is to open a new Israeli resort in the

Negev Desert in November 2018. One for next winter's diary? sixsenses.com