WHEREVER

the magazine for expats everywhere

Lisbon Edition
Summer 2024

THE GETAWAY ISSUE

17 Perfect Hideaways

Explorer **Ben Allen**
The Reluctant Traveller
Meeting **James May**

Gisele Bündchen's Ranch

Best Family Summer Ever

Why Travel With Kids
Packing Tips
Solo Travel

St Tropez Style

Exotic **Golf** Breaks

Goodwood
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Algarve Cruising
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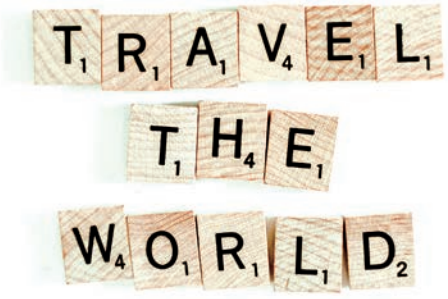
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Hello Lisbon!



This Summer, WHEREVER is getting away from it all. We all need to sometimes. There's yachting locally, along the Algarve coastline, a trip to the most family friendly chateau in France and a weekend in Barcelona, not to mention our Car Geek's invitation to Goodwood.

Big thanks to our brilliant columnists, from our resident relationship expert Randi Levinson, to author and royal enthusiast, Jerramy Fine in London and new addition Alex Story who will be reporting on expat life in Salzburg.

There's also lots of packing advice, family travel tips and more from our friends Where The Kids Roam. In our Homes pages, we get the lowdown on getting that Summer Look, and take a peek at supermodel Gisele's new digs.

Keep the feedback coming! We need it. We love it. We get better with it!

Things are still busy at WHEREVER HQ with our Paris edition adding more 'to do' on the list. Where else should we take WHEREVER to?

Travel experts give us their ultimate escapes, and we talk to James May, Eugene Levy and explorer Benedict Allen about what travel means to them.



Also, please do get in touch if you'd like to work with us. We're always happy to hear from you and always on the lookout for new talent.

Rowena Carr-Allinson
Editor in Chief
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Contributors



Kasia Dietz is a freelance writer from the Hamptons, New York who followed her heart to Paris.

A born traveller, Kasia contributes to international titles from Architectural Digest to the Evening Standard and The Independent amongst others. In this issue she gives us her adventure bucketlist for inspiration.

@kasiadietz



Lara Kilner interviews talent and writes travel and lifestyle content for a range of UK titles, including the Telegraph, Times, Observer and i Weekend, as well as brands such as Expedia. She met her husband in a beach bar in his native Malaysia while on a round-the-world backpacking trip, and they now live by a very different seaside in Brighton with their two children.

@larakilner



Alex Story has written for the Spectator, the Telegraph, Country Squire Magazine, The Express and The Critic amongst others. He runs a private placement company, where he works closely with Private Equity and VC funds. He also represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games and won the Boat Race for Cambridge on two occasions. His team still holds the course record.

@alexpstory



American expat in London for 25 years, **Jerramy Fine** was raised by hippies in Colorado,. Her childhood quest to become a princess is detailed in her hilarious memoir, Someday My Prince Will Come, while In Defense of the Princess explores her theories on princess culture. She writes for Cosmopolitan, The Telegraph, MacLeans and The New York Post. Her new novel, Royal Resistance, is out this summer.

@missjfine



Randi Levinson is a Marriage and Family Therapist, a Certified Clinical Sexologist and a professor. She helps individuals and couples find a deeper, more meaningful connection; better communication, and better more fulfilling intimate experiences. Randi has been a relationship expert for various publications, TV and film while continuing her in-person and virtual private practice.

@randilevinson



Raoul Ruiz Martinez is the Founder of RZ Financial Planning, responsible for the performance of holistic Private Office services, working closely with RZFP premium clients. Raoul has 20 years of experience bringing bespoke solutions to individuals and families relocating from across the globe.

@raoulruizmartinez



Emily Damon worked in interior design firms in Chicago prior to the pandemic. Once she began to solo travel, she taught herself how to edit videos to create a visual diary. She resides in Lisbon, and finds it a perfect base to continue her travels and also stay connected with her adult children, Andrew and Sarah, who live in Boston and NYC.

@emilydamon3



Maayan & Gal are all about supporting and coaching for women abroad.

Helping expats with daily challenges, the sisters guide their clients emotionally and mentally to become their better selves with positive psychology and mentoring.

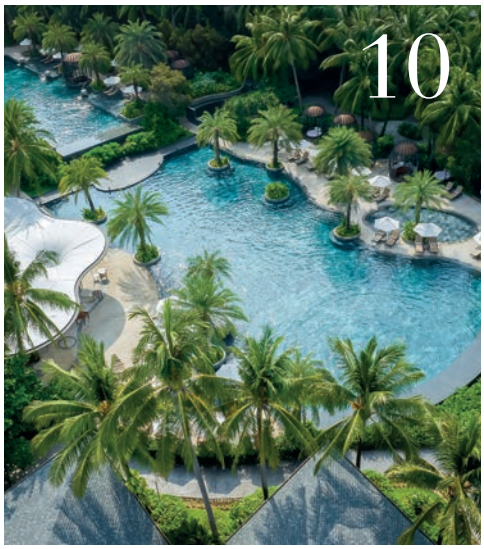
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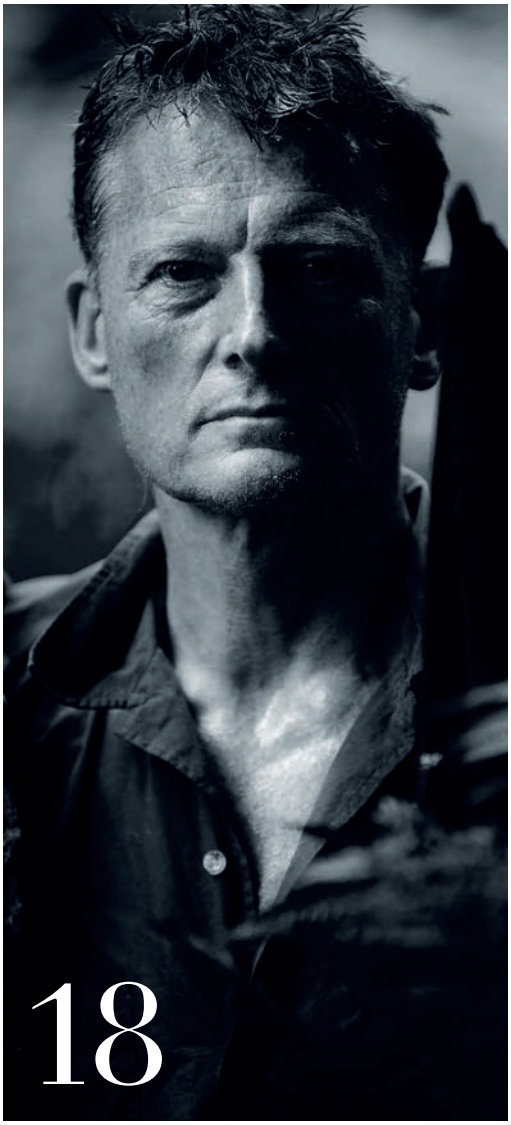


Theresa Devereux is a freelance writer based in the UK. She has a background in healthcare and worked for several years at the BBC as a broadcast journalist. She writes mainly for specialist health magazines and loves travelling.

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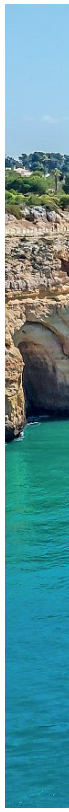














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Top 17 Escapes to... Get Away from It All

WHEREVER collects the gems to hide away in when you really want to get far from the madding crowds.

Herdade da Malhadinha Nova, Alentejo, Portugal

Having heard all about the Herdade da Malhadinha Nova, it was high time to check in. Located in Albernoa, Beja, in the heart of the Baixo Alentejo, the estate spreads across an impressive 610 hectares. It's clear as soon as you drive up its long driveway, past the olive groves, overlooking the vineyards in the distance, that this is a place like no other. A vast oasis where the love of nature, food, wine and time is key.

With five different types of accommodations, everyone can find their match. Each has their own unique character and size. But most of all the estate offers space, heaps of space. That is true luxury. A feeling of seclusion and freedom unparalleled.

In Casa do Ancoradouro, we make a home in one of the seven suites. They are spacious, comfortable and simply chic, all terracotta floors and white linens. In the common area, you'll find a pool, a Bulthaup kitchen, a Steinway & Sons grand piano from 1900 — just in case — and a huge Living Divani sofa to kick back on. At breakfast time, the team is there to welcome you with a plethora of local goodies, fruit, breads and eggs. Bliss.

Other options to stay in include the Monte da Peceguina, a typical Alentejo-style farm, the 'boutique hotel' with three suites and seven rooms. It's ultra cosy and simple, yet sophisticated. Expect the finest: Philippe Starck lighting, Claus Porto toiletries, iPads, Bose sound systems and underfloor heating. It's home to the swanky 'M Wellness Spa' where you can indulge in some rather delicious vinotherapy, overlooking the hillside vineyards. Like your privacy? Try the



Casa de Pedras. Made up of four 100m2 suites furnished with timeless pieces, and with private pools, too. There are also two villas, each with their own unique style and design.

Don't miss dinner at Eleven Restaurant where executive Chef Joachim Koerper has just earned a Michelin star. Well deserved. Local seasonal produce and attention to detail makes for an unforgettable experience. With an organic and self-sufficient production, the restaurant serves wines, olive oil and honey, as well as a variety of cereals, Alentejo beef, Merino sheep and the black pig, all with PDO (protected designations of origin), as well as vegetables and fruit from the gardens and orchards. From the beef tartare to the black pork loin served with confit potatoes and glazed carrots, to the Lamb with grilled cabbage, or the chicken with fresh cheese and thyme ravioli — each dish a delight. A special nod to the chocolate textures — cream, brownie and coulis served with fresh strawberries. And, it goes without saying, that the Herdade's own wine was perfectly suited.
www.malhadinhanova.pt

© 2020 - 2024 Herdade da Malhadinha Nova.

Avani+ Barbarons, Seychelles

Just re-opening, this resort, located on the west coast of Mahé, the largest island in the Seychelles archipelago, sits on the white sands of Barbarons Beach. The resort's extensive renovation includes a revitalisation of its main swimming pool into an impressive infinity pool with a sunken bar and beach decking, all surrounded by lush tropical landscaping. In addition to refurbishing the existing 124 guest rooms and suites, an additional 68 keys are being added in a completely new extension to the resort, and introducing new room types with a total of 192 rooms and suites. The five room types include options with easy access to the spa and sandy beach, with adjacent and connecting rooms. The resort is perfect for family holidays with amazing facilities for both parents and kids alike, including the children's pool, or arts, crafts and games at the Children's Club, Avani Kids.
www.avanihotels.com



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Kasbah Tamadot, Morocco

New in July 2024, the hotel, well-known for its incredible Berber hospitality, is to open six new riads. Re-opening entirely in October, following a period of partial closure and restorations in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that occurred in the region last year, Kasbah Tamadot is back, better than ever. Nestled in the Atlas Mountains, with stunning views over the majestic Mount Toubkal, the three-bedroom Riads can sleep up to 10 guests. Each bedroom has its own private bathroom, lounge area and terrace, with the latest unique addition — a Rooftop Tented Suite — comprising of two seamlessly connected tents and also featuring a hot tub! Each riad will also provide guests with their own private pool area.
www.virginlimitededition.com/kasbah-tamadot

Kilindi, Zanzibar

On the north-west coast of Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous archipelago off Tanzania's coast, this stylish boutique property is made up of fifteen spacious, white-domed pavilion guest rooms, set in lush tropical beach front gardens. With an adult-only policy this is the ideal retreat to find some welcome rest and relaxation. All the guest pavilions have their own private plunge pool and separate outdoor 'rain shower'. The menu at Kilindi reflects the ocean-side dining with fresh seafood available daily. Chefs are inspired by the abundance of local spices and guests can expect to indulge in local specialties. There are also cookery classes on offer for those wanting to expand their repertoire of dishes with tropical inspiration.

An on-site spa offers a selection of treatments and massages. Yoga instruction is also available to pre-book. For guests wanting to explore, excursions include a historical Stone Town tour and an Island spice tour. Ocean fairing activities include a private sunset dhow cruise and a blue dolphin and snorkelling tour.
www.elewanacollection.com

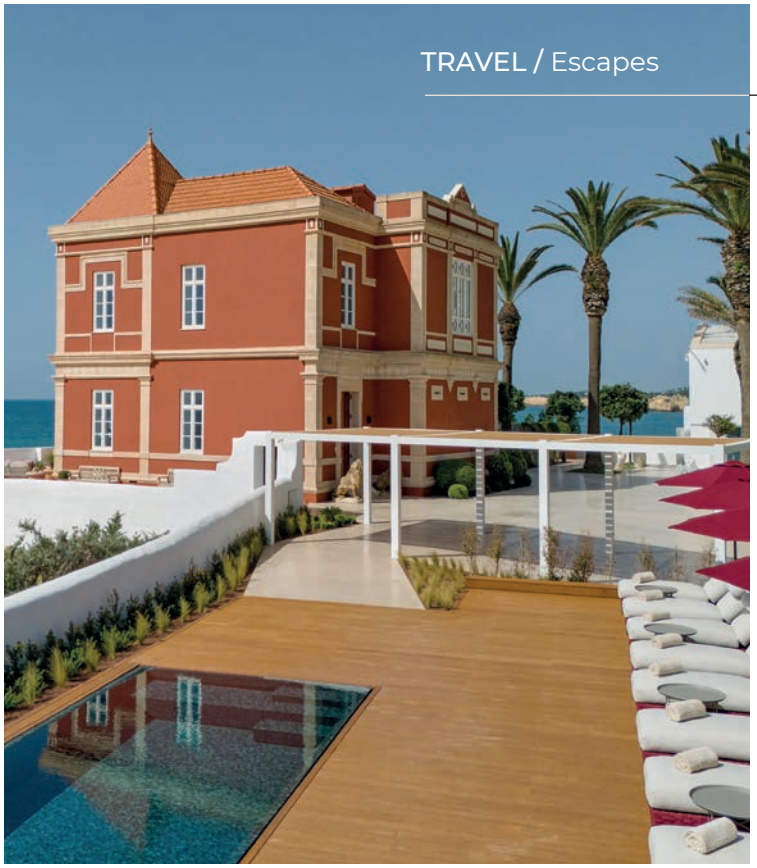


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The Red Chalet, Algarve, Portugal

Redefining outdoor luxury! Inspired by the Belle Époque era, this building was a private summer home for over 80 years and is now part of Vila Vita Collection's offering. Renovated to add contemporary luxury, you'll find Moroccan influences, geometric designs and elegant reminders of the region's rich cultural history throughout.

Private, palatial and ideally located, this private villa is still secluded and has direct access to the beach below. It's even got a new 8x3m outdoor heated pool, as well as a treatment room and a sauna. Just the place to revitalise, recharge and re-energise in 5* surroundings in the Algarve. With room for up to eight guests, the accommodation is also shared with the 'White House', a chic, boho-style beach house right on the terrace with the most superb sea views. With daily housekeeping and breakfast, a dedicated villa manager and the option of a private chef from Vila Vita Parc, what more could you ask for?
www.vilavitacollection.com



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Aleenta Hua Hin Pranburi Resort & Spa, Thailand

In a destination known as the 'Hamptons' of Thailand, Aleenta Hua Hin Pranburi Resort & Spa is a quiet beachfront resort on Pak Nam Pran Bay. Here R&R means no TV, rewarding activities and night time stargazing while relaxing in one of 20 suites and villas, many with private pools. The heart of the resort is its 25-acre farm that provides eggs, herbs and vegetables for the restaurants, Ayurah Spa and bakery. Early birds can wake with the sun and ride a bike along the coastal cycle track before returning to give alms to the local monks who walk by the resort each morning. Other local activities include kitesurfing, exploring the mangrove forests of Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park and sampling tropical terroir at Monsoon Valley Vineyards. Wind up the day with an intimate sunset picnic on the top of Buddha blessing hill, just a few minutes from the resort.
www.aleenta.com/huahin

Outrigger Beach Resort, Mauritius

Located on the south coast, known for its fishing villages and volcanic rock cliffs, is the lush nature reserve of Bel Ombre. This family friendly resort offers authentic Mauritian culture, alongside classic architecture and incredible views of the Indian Ocean. The hotel's Navasana Spa offers a hammam, ayurvedic massages and Germaine de Capuccini products. The spa also offers treatments for children, with mini facials and massages! Alternatively, yoga, beach volleyball and scuba diving are all on offer, and for thrill seekers, Mauritius is a kitesurfer's paradise, too. Up to three children under 17 stay free in Family Rooms, while the Coral Kids Club offers indoor arts and crafts. For adults, exploring Mauritian culture is made easy by the rum room and cooking classes, as well as the weekly Creole Jazz sessions.
www.outrigger.com



© 2010 - 2024 OUTRIGGER Hotels Hawaii

Thanda Island, Tanzania



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An unforgettable Robinson Crusoe style escape! With the old adage of travel being the best form of education, the entire family will likely all find that every day is a school day as they learn about the local marine life in the surrounding coral reef, home to whale sharks, humpback whales, turtles and countless different species of fish. The archipelago offers an array of activities, from coral nursery tours to sailing away on the island's 36ft yacht or a spot of deep sea fishing. Opt for a dedicated personal marine biologist to help guide you and fully understand and appreciate the conservation initiatives in the area. With five bedrooms, a large lounge and dining area, complete with an enormous fish tank, a library and much more, there's plenty of time and space to relax. With two Tanzanian ensuite bandas set apart from the main house and a total of eight hectares to play with, there are myriad opportunities to rest, relax and reconnect.

www.cazloyd.com



© www.guana.com

Guana Island, British Virgin Islands

A pristine jewel in the BVI, Guana Island is an 850-acre private island resort. With only 18 rooms and villas, and seven white sand beaches, it offers unmatched privacy and exclusivity. Since the 1930s, Guana Island has welcomed guests seeking tranquillity and natural beauty. Owned by the Jarecki family since 1975, the island is committed to wildlife conservation and sustainability to protect Guana's unique flora and fauna, and bring back species that once flourished in the BVI. Guests can enjoy farm-to-table cuisine from the island's organic orchard, served in the beautiful Clubhouse. The five-acre orchard reduces reliance on imported food and features over 40 different varieties of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. All meals and wines, as well as snacks like tropical fruit and fresh-baked cookies are included. With 90% of the island undisturbed, Guana Island blends luxury with nature. Its history, spanning decades, reflects a dedication to preserving its unique environment while providing a serene retreat.

www.guana.com

NH Collection Maldives Havodda Resort, Maldives



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An upper-upscale all-villa hideaway nestled on a pristine, palm-tree-blanketed private island on the Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll. Each of the 120 luxurious villas offers breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean, and facilities include a dedicated Asian concept spa, an inviting swimming pool, kids club and a water sports and dive centre. Culinary options include an all-day dining experience with international cuisine to a beachside grill, poolside pizzas and a cocktail bar. The resort is on one of the closest Maldivian islands to the equator, promising almost 12 hours of daylight year-round, and it provides guests with an experience of pure escapism in a setting surrounded by a house reef teeming with marine life. The hotel has also introduced a range of sustainability initiatives that include protection for sea turtle nesting sites and the creation of a hydroponic garden to grow produce for guests.

www.nh-collection.com



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Intercontinental® Phu Quoc Long Beach Resort, Vietnam

Set on the scenic Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam, this impressive resort epitomises luxury amidst tropical beauty. Its 459 elegantly-designed rooms, suites and villas offer contemporary furnishings and stunning views of the ocean or lush gardens. The interiors blend modern comfort with traditional Vietnamese aesthetics for a sophisticated yet relaxed atmosphere.

Dining at the resort is a gourmet experience, with six different venues available. Whether you prefer to dine on seafood at LAVA, enjoy a variety of international dishes at Sora & Umi, or try the cocktails at INK 360, the highest sky bar on the island, there's something for everyone. The resort is also home to the Pearl Lounge and Ombra, for more relaxed dining.

The HARNN Heritage Spa offers holistic wellness treatments inspired by Asian healing traditions. The resort's multiple swimming pools, including a stunning ocean-view pool, provide ample relaxation opportunities. There's also a well-equipped gym, and Planet Trekkers Kids Club as well as a dedicated children's pool.

As the resort is located on a pristine stretch of Long Beach, it's a quick stroll to the crystal-clear waters along soft sandy beaches. The beautifully landscaped gardens and water features add to the serene vibe. The overall design of the resort harmoniously blends modern architecture with a local flavour.

www.phuquoc.intercontinental.com







Rosewood Little Dix Bay, British Virgin Islands

Long regarded as one of the world's greatest getaways, Rosewood Little Dix Bay offers a level of refinement unrivalled in the Caribbean. An eco-tourism destination, the 500 acre resort celebrates Virgin Gorda'suntamed natural beauty, surrounded by clear blue seas, rugged hills, isolated beaches and spectacular geographical formations. Following a multi-million dollar renovation and redesign, the resort's accommodations offer an iconic blend of relaxed luxury, with three open air dining experiences. Relaxation comes in the form of an award-winning cliff-side spa. Hiking trails, a tennis centre and an array of water sports satisfy those inclined to active pursuits. The resort's 42 rooms and 39 suites and hillside villas have been designed to blend into and incorporate the island's tropical landscape. Each accommodation offers a stylish interior, mirroring the soothing tones of the island's pristine sands, ancient boulders and cooling waters, as well as a host of thoughtful amenities.
www.rosewoodhotels.com



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La Sultana Oualidia, Morocco

A beguiling Moorish fortress surrounded by orange, olive and jacaranda trees, terraces, fountains and flowered balconies that overlook a serene lagoon on the Atlantic coast. A hidden gem by the ocean, La Sultana is the only luxury hotel in Oualidia; the property has the ability to capture, energise and sooth in equal measure — the perfect antidote following a stay in the hustle and bustle of Marrakech. It has curated a variety of family-friendly, immersive experiences and excursions to enable guests to discover the region. Oualidia has surfing all year, and is one of the best spots in the winter for European surfers. Furthermore, there's the Bird Safari — the lagoon at Oualidia is an exceptional ecological site for bird conservation in Morocco that extends over 12km. According to the season, pink flamingos (spring and autumn), storks, grey herons, spatulas and big cormorants can be spotted.
www.lasultanahotels.com/oualidia

&Beyond Phinda Forest Lodge, South Africa

Set within the rare sand forest at the heart of &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve, Phinda Forest Lodge, one of the world's first eco-friendly lodges, has been meticulously designed in perfect harmony with the forest's natural flow. The Zulu-zen inspired lodge embodies a commitment to minimise the impact on the environment, a real-life example of how development can be both environmentally and socially responsible without compromising luxury and quality. Unwind in absolute tranquillity in one of the lodge's 16 air-conditioned suites. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls invite the forest inside, while the dense tree canopy shelters and provides privacy. Floating on stilts above the forest floor while tiny duiker graze below, the suites feel as if they are one with the forest, while each suite's private veranda allows for gentle contemplation of the breathtaking forest views. A new family suite completes the lodge offering, ensuring families an intimate and comfortable safari experience.
www.andbeyond.com



© www.andbeyond.com



© www.carlisle-bay.com

Carlisle Bay, Antigua

Set on a secluded sweeping bay against a backdrop of hills and rainforest on Antigua's idyllic south coast, luxury resort Carlisle Bay, one of The Leading Hotels of the World, is an effortlessly stylish, contemporary hotel with 87 suites. The resort offers a wide variety of activities, from gentler pursuits of reading, movies and yoga to the thrills of watersports and the availability of our prestigious tennis facilities. Carlisle Bay's children's programme includes the Cool Kids Club where little ones can enjoy fun educational activities, including lizard hunting and treasure hunts or play in the jungle gym, paddling pool or mini tennis courts.

Couples can stay in the resort's secluded Bay Suites, which are located on the quietest corner of the property and offer gorgeous sunset views, direct access to the beach and access to the resort's adults-only Jetty Grill restaurant. The resort also offers romantic dining for two on its overwater Jetty.
www.carlisle-bay.com

Maroma, A Belmond Hotel, Mexico

Set amongst 200 acres of lush tropical jungle and the secluded white sands of Mexico's Caribbean coast, Maroma has been carefully reimagined with Mayan design, traditions and culture at the forefront. The reborn icon now has 72 rooms, suites and villas outfitted with a blend of local materials, artisanal patterns and traditional craftsmanship, and four dining destinations, including a new gastronomic restaurant, Woodend by Curtis Stone, the renowned Michelin-star chef, and Casa Mayor by Mexican-born Executive Chef Daniel Camacho, where authentic local cuisine takes centre stage. The biophilic Maroma Spa by Guerlain is a holistic wellness retreat with a menu of nature-focused treatments and immersive guest experiences, including an onsite apothecary and meliponario, housing the revered Melipona bee. Building on its legacy of care for the community and environment, Maroma also unveils ground-breaking sustainability initiatives, both on-property and in the community. Deeply embedded into the soul of the Yucatán, Maroma enters a new era as the beating heart of the Riviera Maya.
www.belmond.com



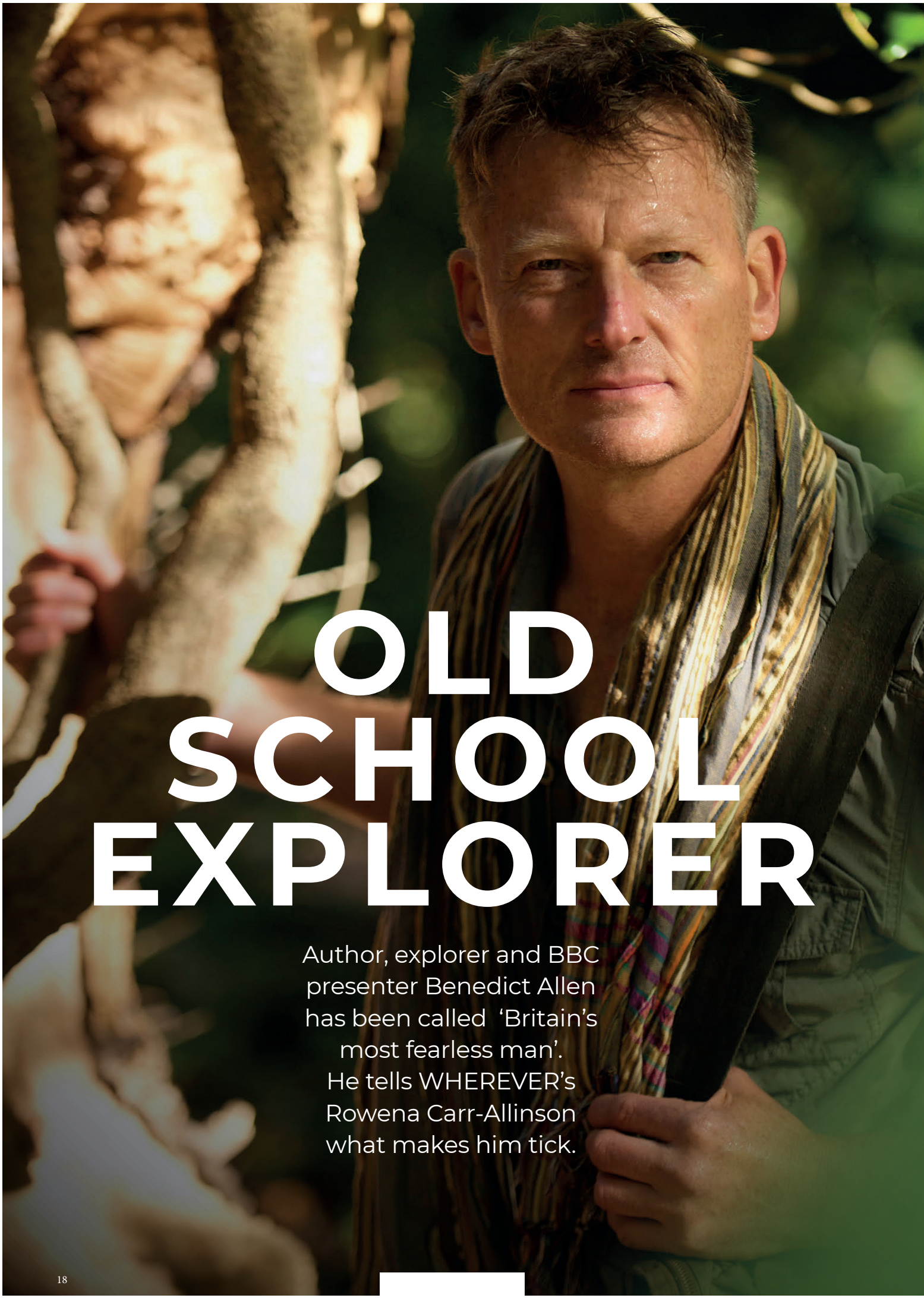
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&Beyond Punakha River Lodge, Bhutan

Tucked into the lush Punakha River Valley and sprawled on the banks of the Mo Chu River, &Beyond Punakha River Lodge offers six intimate luxury tents, a one-bedroom suite (the River House) and a two-bedroom suite (the Family Suite). Enveloped by paddy fields and dense clusters of forested hills, the lodge has been built in the traditional Bhutanese style and is a playground for the intrepid outdoor enthusiast and cultural traveller alike. Choose from rafting, kayaking and a variety of hikes and longer treks. Those looking to be pampered can indulge in a range of relaxing treatments and wellness therapies in the lodge's spa. Balance your chakras with gentle yoga sessions, or sink into the bliss of a traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath. Stroll through the paddy fields, enjoy a sundowner on the suspension bridge and dine on traditional cuisine, a delicious fusion of Indian, Tibetan and Chinese influences.
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OLD SCHOOL EXPLORER

Author, explorer and BBC presenter Benedict Allen has been called 'Britain's most fearless man'. He tells WHEREVER's Rowena Carr-Allinson what makes him tick.

Benedict Allen is often compared to the proverbial cat with nine lives. His adventures have taken him from the Namibian Skeleton coast, to the Gobi desert, across the Amazon and making 'first contact' with remote tribes in New Guinea.

The explorer is best known for disappearing (literally) in the world's most inhospitable locations on Indiana Jones style adventures. He has published several books, including Explorer: The Quest for Adventure and the Great Unknown, The Faber Book of Exploration, and Into the Abyss based on his experience crossing Siberia with a pack of sledge dogs.

So, what exactly drives a man to head solo to the Peruvian Amazon and walk 1,000 miles across Siberia? Allen's forays into the unknown are born of a desire to find out what makes people tick. What keeps people keep going day after day, especially in tough conditions?

His real preoccupation is with survival 'because I've had many narrow squeaks throughout my career'. His 'squeaks', as he quaintly refers to them, include getting shot at by Pablo Escobar's henchmen, being poisoned in the Peruvian Amazon, and having to eat his dog or face starvation, not to mention having contracted Malaria and Dengue fever in Papua New Guinea . But, he's quick to point out that his biggest problem has always been people: 'all the times I've almost died it's never been a natural thing, never a snake or piranhas, always people... Gold miners, loggers, drug barons: opportunists.'

To comprehend survival, he chooses the most inhospitable territories such as Siberia. 'It is generally a symbol of hell on earth. We think of the gulags and the tortuous places, but there are people living out there. It's their home.'

Adapting to his local environment is Allen's secret. He 'learns from local people to adapt to local ways'. He doesn't take this lightly, even undergoing rites of passage such as the 'crocodile initiation' ceremony in New Guinea, which is as painful as it sounds.

Filming his own material for documentaries, Allen travels alone without a satellite phone, GPS or any other useful gadgets. Going solo enables him to experience the authentic. 'It works because I'm not a threat. I'm simply me. I'm very vulnerable. I don't have a gun, I just potter along'.

Pottering along seems to put him in harm's way more often than not. Does this make him courageous or just plain crazy? 'I do risky things but not as many as anyone thinks. But fear is a good thing to have. I do feel fear!'

Allen's approach to life, death and survival is admirable. He is serene. Recently bereaved, he admits that some people 'cope better than others'. And he is clearly one of the former.

Before travelling he packs an all important 'survival file'. It is 'full of quotes and cuttings from explorers and ordinary people who have said things about what it is to live through disaster'. Useful inspiration no doubt, when, one night, during a squall, Allen got separated from his dogs. He remembers: 'through the night I was wondering if I'd find the dogs the next morning, if I'd survive. I had to come up with a purpose to get out.' The dogs became both the means and motivation to survive. 'They were the most important thing for me. They had become more than just dogs, they had become professional colleagues. I had become part of their pack.'

Turning back due to the abysmal weather conditions, for his own sake as for that of the dogs, Benedict cut his expedition 50 miles short. A wise decision he didn't regret: 'I had these two wonderful days coming back out of danger on the Bering Strait. I felt this camaraderie with these dogs and felt what it was like to be given back life.'

He concludes that survival is 'about two things: having a purpose allied with belief. You have to believe that it's possible that you can survive.'

Benedict still hasn't cured his wanderlust. The bug's been with him since childhood, when his father, a test pilot, brought fascinating exotic souvenirs home.

He admits 'it's tempting to rewrite one's childhood' but wanting to become an explorer was always there: 'no doubt about it!' The main hurdle was financial. Working in a warehouse funded a first trip, and so too, the first of nine books. Allen was hooked. 'I couldn't think of anything that would be quite as exciting again'. ›

However, organising expeditions and being away for months at a time is getting harder. It seems the time for long solo expeditions might be drawing to a close. A little nostalgically, he admits 'I've become more of a writer than a traveller'.

Despite his TV series' success, he admits 'TV has changed. It's more gimmicky now. They are not interested in authentic expeditions any more'. Sponsorship is an option but Benedict has principles; 'if I find the perfect sponsor who'd be ready to write a check that would be great, but I don't want to go with a whole load of western gear and advertising'.

"IT'S TEMPTING TO REWRITE ONE'S CHILDHOOD' BUT WANTING TO BECOME AN EXPLORER WAS ALWAYS THERE: NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!"

He seems increasingly torn between leaving and staying put; 'perhaps I'm just getting older'. Indeed, flipping from the solitude of solo travel to the hectic pace of Shepherd's Bush is a challenge, a culture shock even for the most seasoned traveller.

Benedict considers and shares his secret; 'the main thing is not to get sucked up in the whirligig. I tend to avoid people at first. It's very tempting to leap into social life. I tend to go visit family; that is my mental resource.'

A tight family and basic British cultural values keep him grounded. 'I suppose that is what I plug into. Often it comes down to that: a pint of beer, going to see a movie or something..."

You can take the man out of London...

But, what does such an extraordinary person long for far from home? Apparently, ordinary things like 'a good hunk of meat'. Although it's available, it's not quite a Sunday roast. He laughs, 'if you are eating monkey day after day, it's very dull.' Luckily, there's no such thing on the menu at his local pub, the Havelock. 'I love going in there just doing ordinary things. That helps me.'

He's also a regular at the Old Parr's Head where he loves the Thai meals. 'This is the great thing about London, all these races and cultures shoved together. I'm not a great fan of multiculturalism, but I love individuals with cultures they bring with them. It could be a nightmare but it's a lovely thing.' He compares the diversity and cosmopolitan side of London to New York, but says it's like nowhere else on earth.

'We are all explorers. If I couldn't go abroad again, I'd find enough to keep me going just in Shepherd's Bush!' Allen finds his turf comforting. He loves the city's reassuring consistency compared with the rapid demise of Nature. 'Things more or less stay the same. The great thing about London is that it has kept a lot of its old heart. You get a sense of the permanence here. A street will go one way, another Post Office will close, but nonetheless you see the eras that have been there before you. London seems to march on.'

After a dozen years in Shepherd's Bush, Allen jokes that he knows all his neighbours but isn't a 'very good neighbourhood watch person!' He loves the village atmosphere of his part of town, 'the familiar faces... the little butcher, the bookshop...'

However, he is contributing to his community by talking to children in local schools. Allen is modest about inspiring the next generation of would-be-adventurers with tales from a real life Indiana Jones. 'I don't know about them being impressed by me, but they are impressed by the places. I tend to emphasise the dramatic bits like when I was shot at! These are the things that tend to grip the young imaginations. I always say: 'you probably don't want to be an explorer... maybe you want to be a ballerina, a chartered accountant or a footballer....but the great thing is I did what I wanted to do so, please just see what I have to say about my life, about believing in myself. Then I tell stories and hope they get involved.'





WIN TWO NIGHTS AT CHÂTEAU LA CHENEVIÈRE

NATURE AND GASTRONOMY IN THE HEART OF NORMANDY, FRANCE

Château la Chenevière is an 18th century manor house full of history, perfectly located between the picturesque town of Bayeux and the fishing port of Port-en-Bessin near the landing beaches in Normandy.

Just a 2h30 drive from Paris, La Chenevière is in the centre of Normandy, making it the perfect stop to visit the region's most spectacular sights.

The château is nestled in a romantic garden "à l'anglaise" with an impressive collection of antique roses, beautiful wisteria and never-ending bushes of hydrangea, all of which are surrounded by impressive centennial trees.

Seasonality and sustainability are essential at la Chenevière, thanks to its two hectare permaculture garden and beehives, which provide vegetables, herbs and honey to their two restaurants: fine-dining Le Botaniste and bistrot restaurant Le Petit Jardin.

Chefs at Le Botaniste create refined yet creative menus, using Normandy's best and most unique produce, including the freshest scallops, cider-fed beef and salt marsh lamb. Le Botaniste's wine cellar offers over 300 references from lesser-known wine growers to rare vintage wines.

Le Petit Jardin is located in the château's old conservatory near the outdoor swimming pool and offers a relaxed setting with a "garden-to-table" food and cocktail menu.

The five-star hotel has 30 spacious and comfortable rooms, all differently decorated but all charming and full of character.

What is the name of the château's restaurant?

Email stacey@wherevermags.com with your answers before September 10th.







Château La Chenevière, Commes, 14520 Port-en-Bessin-Huppain, France. T+33 (0)2 31 51 25 25, reservation@lacheneviere.com, www.lacheneviere.com

Terms & Conditions: The prize is non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. This offer is subject to availability. Prize includes 2-night stay in a Classic room including breakfast, voucher available from Sept 2024 to Dec 2024 or July to Sept 2025. By entering this competition, participants agree to be contacted in the future by email for marketing and promotional purposes by WHEREVER.

THE RELUCTANT TRAVELLER

Eugene Levy has never had a passion for travel, but the Schitt's Creek star gained a whole new outlook when he travelled the globe – from Lapland to Japan via Costa Rica to South Africa – for his new series. Or so he tells Lara Kilner.

I'm not really what you would call a good traveller. It's kind of a personality situation, it's just who I am. There are certain attributes you need, and the curiosity to want to get out there and explore has never been my strong point. Sightseeing is not an experience that I find enjoyable. When it's too hot, I'm uncomfortable, when it's too cold, I'm uncomfortable. Plus I've got a basic palette, I'm a meat and potatoes kind of guy. I love Italy because you're always going to get a good meal, but it makes me nervous to go to a place where I'm not sure what the food is going to be like. Warthog sausages and crocodile schnitzels are not for me. I have a low sense of adventure.

"WARTHOG SAUSAGES AND CROCODILE SCHNITZELS ARE NOT FOR ME. I HAVE A LOW SENSE OF ADVENTURE."



I don't have a travel bucket list, just give me a really decent hotel because I like to make good use of the amenities. I don't want to stay in a fleabag motel. The vacations I'd go on with my wife Deb and the kids [fellow Schitt's Creek stars Dan and Sarah Levy] when they were younger were to beach resorts where there wasn't a whole lot on the agenda. We'd get down to the pool every day, have a nice cool drink and decide where to go for dinner. There was not much thinking involved.

I was hesitant about doing a travel show in the beginning, and putting myself out there with all these silly little foibles of mine was definitely a first. But seeing the world doing this show helped me lose my natural cynicism and turned me around in a more positive way. That's what travelling can do. It can turn your head in ways that only travelling can. I'm still not a gung ho traveller exactly but I think I'm making headway.

The country that was the biggest surprise for me was South Africa. I'd never really wanted to go on a safari and was not excited about the prospect. I have friends who say 'Oh my God, it's so exciting, you must go on a safari' but I just didn't get it. I have a very strong sense of what these animals look like, I've seen them on TV, so did I need to get up at five in the morning to go look at a giraffe wandering across a field? It seems I did because, once I got there, I got it. We stayed at a beautiful hotel, the Kruger Shalati, and I've never seen anything quite like it. It's housed in train carriages on the Shalati Bridge over the Sabie River. The train first brought tourists to the Kruger National Park in the 1920s and would stop on the bridge overnight because it was a hotspot for seeing the Big Five. In the early 70s, they stopped that train route and recently somebody had the idea to put that train permanently on the bridge and turn it into a hotel. The train cars are suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, so I'd wake up and look out every day to see elephants and water buffalo and spot crocodiles heading up the river. The surprising thing for me was that I started to develop a great affinity for the landscape and the animals in a way that I never imagined. We took a trip to a rhino conservation park, where they look after orphans and rhinos who have been badly injured by poachers and hunters, and I got to bottle feed these beautiful 600lb babies and hand-feed a black rhino. The concept of how much danger these animals are in on a day-to-day basis hit me hard. ›


APISUDEST



The Reluctant Traveller is available on **Apple TV+ now**

"I DON'T HAVE A TRAVEL BUCKET LIST, JUST GIVE ME A REALLY DECENT HOTEL BECAUSE I LIKE TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE AMENITIES."

For me, a once in a lifetime experience is exactly that. Going on a night hike in the Costa Rican rainforest with snakes and spiders? That's an experience I did not enjoy, I would never have done it and I wouldn't do it again, but at least I tried it. Going up in a helicopter in Utah over the Horseshoe Bend and landing on the sandstone summit of Tower Butte made me crazy. I have a thing with heights, my stomach was churning and it was not a pleasant experience, but I can pat myself on the back for doing it. And I truly did have kind of a good time doing most things – ice fishing in Lapland, not so much, but I loved the huskies and driving a dog sled across a frozen lake was truly an exhilarating experience. I had a lot of fun.

In my own life would I ever have gone to Lapland? I don't think so. I'd heard that eating reindeer is kind of a big thing there and I didn't think I would care for that. I have a tough time with food that's more on the exotic side – if you want to take me for a burger or take me to a Michelin restaurant, I'll opt for the burger seven days a week. I didn't want to tell the people who cooked the reindeer steak for me that I didn't like it, but, it was almost raw and very gamey – I don't care for game and rare is not my thing.

Tokyo was the worst experience for me with food when I was brought out a tray of sushi, eel sashimi and sea urchins. I've never eaten sushi before – for me, cook the fish, put it over a fire and grill it. But the wagyu beef was exceptionally great. I also ate that in Costa Rica, cooked with a crust made with the local coffee, and it was absolutely wonderful.

The accommodation, Nayara Tented Camp, in Costa Rica was a delightful surprise. I've never slept in a tent and, when I heard that it was a tree camp, I was not looking forward to that, but these were luxurious tents built on stilts 30 feet in the air and quite amazing – though I was admiring the overlooking view of the mountain until I was told it was a volcano that had only been dormant for ten years. We were at the foot of it. That was a little too close for comfort for me.

The Amangiri hotel in Utah, meanwhile, was so peaceful, the way the hotel lays in with the landscape in such a natural way. And then there was the Maldives. Other than how long it takes to get there, there is no downside to the Maldives. I stayed on the magical private island of Kudadoo [where a one night stay can cost US$8,600]. 'Anything, anywhere, anytime' is their concept – our hairstylist said she would love some Polish food and, the next night, they brought her every Polish dish you could imagine. These are islands in the Indian ocean, how do they get this stuff?

But the most memorable aspect of these destinations has been the people I have encountered. Getting to meet their families and dropping myself into their culture is something that has been a really good thing for me because I've always been a very private person – on the shy side, to be honest – so I don't like putting myself out there and I don't readily engage in conversation with people that I don't know. It's been a very positive thing and I've brushed off some cobwebs that have been forming for many, many years."

IN Travel Gear

James May, hosted Top Gear alongside Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond for 13 years before they defected to Amazon Prime with The Grand Tour. Since 2020, he's been hosting the travel show Our Man In... with series set in Italy, Japan and India. He reminisces with Lara Kilner.



The most shocking thing I've ever experienced while travelling is thinking Richard Hammond had actually died when we were up a mountain in Switzerland. I drove up to see him being dragged out of an upside-down Rimac and there was about ten seconds when I thought 'He's dead, we've actually killed someone', until the sound man said 'It's ok, I can still hear his mic, he's talking'.

There have been emotional highs as well as lows, usually when I'm inadvertently left alone. I drove across the sand dunes in a beach buggy in Namibia and the sand was golden, the sun was setting, the light was diffused, there were misty bits in the sky, and all these fantastic colours came out. It was one of those moments where I thought 'This will never happen again and if I get buried in the sand now and am never found, it doesn't really matter.'

I became curious about the world on a school exchange trip to Karlsruhe in southern Germany. Before that, I'd only ever been on camping holidays, including one to Dorset in 1969 where our tent washed away in a storm and we slept in a council office block for two days. I first met my exchange partner Armin Göbelbecker in the school hall and thought 'Who is this fat idiot?' He thought 'Who is this scrawny whip?' and we hated each other at first, but we are still friends today. Some kids are traumatised by these exchange trips, but I thought it was amazing being in this incredibly foreign place where all the kids wore leather jackets and were very regimented about fashion. We'd ride around on 50cc mopeds and eat very German things like dampfnudel and sausages in hard bread rolls. It wasn't particularly remarkable but, if you're 14 years old, it's a thrilling adventure.

I then went interrailing and saw things I'd read about in books in places like Florence and, in 1991, went to what was then Yugoslavia. There was a big demonstration in Dubrovnik and an American diplomat told us to leave the country. It took me three days to get out as conflict was starting to kick off, partly spent being rather scared, sleeping on a bench in Zagreb station with some slightly dangerous people lurking about. ›

Because my working life was disorganised – it wasn't exactly a career trajectory, more doing odd jobs and getting fired from them – I'd go to a travel agent in Kilburn in the days when you could walk in and say 'Have you got spare seats on any flights?' Once, they said 'you have to go this weekend but you can go with the nuns', so off I went on a charter flight full of nuns to Rome for 30 quid.

These days, when I go on holiday with my partner Sara, we go to the Maldives and sit around eating big prawns, or – I don't want to sound pompous – are keen on educational holidays. Left to my own devices I'd probably have stuck to European historical centres but, doing Top Gear and The Grand Tour, I've been to all sorts of places I wouldn't have encountered, from Botswana to wildernesses in Australia and Mongolia, to the magnetic north pole.

There's been some shocking camping and all of us, at one point or another, have had bad guts to deal with, as well as roads where driving is so debilitating that it destroys the car, gives you an appalling backache and makes your eyeballs fall out. Sometimes we've had to do that for 10 hours, which makes you want to kill someone, probably yourself. I wouldn't recommend driving to the North Pole – or going to the North Pole by any means, to be honest. It sounds romantic but it's actually pretty boring. Just open your fridge and stick your head in the freezer box instead.

> **"I wouldn't recommend driving to the North Pole – or going to the North Pole by any means, to be honest."**

A more wonderful journey was flying from La Paz in Bolivia, 17,000 feet above sea level, down into the jungle. It's cold, you get on the aeroplane with what feels like the world's worst hangover and a belting headache from the altitude, and descend into a clearing where the door opens and it's warm, the air is like treacle, you can breathe properly and your head immediately goes 'ping' – it was worth experiencing altitude sickness for that sensation.

I always crave going back to Japan because I find the aesthetic amazing. You can have an adventure just doing day to day things, like looking at the way things are arranged in shops. It's a feast for the senses.

This is also true of India. Something that has really stuck in my mind was the ceremony at Varanasi next to the holy Ganges, where Hindu pilgrims gather and there is music, bells ringing, incense blowing around and people in a state of bliss. Then there are cities like Mumbai where there are horns blowing and shouting and pollution and it's all very thrusting but, once you get over that, you go with it and it all makes perfect sense. It works in a different way. You can't bring your Western sensibilities to an Indian city. You've got to just allow India to beat you up a bit. Don't fight it. It's part of the fun.



James May: Our Man in India is out on **Prime Video now.**


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The Travel Writers' Bucket List

WHEREVER asks the travel pros what's their ultimate getaway for 2024?

The Asturias, Spain

"This year, my ultimate getaway destination is the Asturias because of the beautiful coastline offering fabulous beaches and lots of delicious anchovies plucked from the sea right there!"

Rooksana Hossenally @roxy.inparis
Food + Travel writer for Forbes, Monocle, Lonely Planet and Whatsup Paris

Rovaniemi, Finland

"Rovaniemi is my top recommendation for 2024, right on the Arctic Circle, feeling like you're stepping into a whole new world — away from big cities and into an oasis of winter wonderland. Sleep under the stars, see the northern lights, feed reindeers, and try your best at catching more fish than the locals when going deep ice fishing. Don't forget to relax in the sauna and plunge into the frozen lake, too!"

Sophie Venz @sophievenz.
Deputy Editor, Forbes Advisor

The Faroe Islands

"The Faroe Islands have been on my bucket list for a couple of years. I've been dying to get there and hop around with tips and recommendations from locals! I first learned about the Faroe Islands shortly before the pandemic and after doing a bit of research and looking at pictures, I fell in love. I love places that are a little off the beaten path and I feel like many travellers have yet to discover the Faroe Islands, which makes me want to get there before it becomes too popular. The rugged terrain, the misty vibes and the fun wildlife put it at the top of my list."

Amanda Mactas @manhattantwist
Freelance writer, Bella Magazine, Women's Health and Time Out

Constanta, Romania

"With a continual flow of 'new' destinations, it's harder than ever to find a hidden gem that serves that dream combo of beautiful vistas and great value for money. The key is to get ahead of the trend by doing plenty of research. My choice for 2024 is Constanța, Romania. This Black Sea coastal town is sure to be the next 'it' destination. Just a short flight time of three and a half hours, incredibly cheap hotels and maintaining a standard 30 degrees throughout the summer, Constanța has all the ingredients to make it the top spot for summer sun. This beach haven is the perfect dupe for Albania, Croatia, and even the Greek Islands!"

Will Jones @studentuniverse
The Travel Hacks Guy

Grenada & Ambergris Caye off Belize

"My bucket list destinations for 2024 are: Grenada, for an unspoiled Caribbean experience. There's an incredible new installation at its sculpture park, great food and plenty to do. Also, Ambergris Caye - a beautiful island off Belize. You can get there by boat or plane. People get around on golf carts. It feels like Tulum 20 years ago. Great place for snorkelling/diving. Secret Beach is amazing (although not a secret or a beach!). It's a shallow lagoon with a row of bars/restaurants on edge with picnic tables in the water and the most beautiful-coloured water I have ever seen. One of the most memorable experiences I have ever had!"

Janine Clements @britmominny
Travel Writer, TIME, The Boston Globe, Trivago, Business Insider, Fodor's



Tahiti

"With the Olympic surfing heading to Tahiti this year, it would definitely be a bucket list destination for 2024!"

Rebecca Marie Crowe, @wanderingandwine
Freelance Travel & Adventure Writer, Stylist, Men's Fitness and TimeOut, and owner of wanderingandwine

Yangshuo, China

"My ultimate bucket list destination is Yangshuo, China, which is surrounded by karst mountains and looks like it's right out of a movie. The landscape is picturesque and there is a gorgeous #Alila hotel made from an old sugar mill below. Stunning."

Jennifer Mattson @jennifermattson
Journalist USAToday, CNN NPR

Japan

"I achieved my dream of visiting Japan in cherry blossom season, exploring Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Tokyo and Osaka. But there is still so much more to see of this fascinating country so Japan is STILL #1 on my travel bucket list!"

Janice Horton @JaniceHorton
The Backpacking Housewife



Nova Scotia

"My bucket list destination for 2024 is Nova Scotia, Canada's lobster capital, where I indulged in the best chowder of my life, watched humpback whales swim under our small fishing boat in the Bay of Fundy, had tea inside a historical lighthouse, hiked remote peaceful trails in Kejimkujik National Park, watched sunsets from crowd-free beaches and met the friendliest people who made my trip so much more insightful."

Joanna Nemes @oana_roua
Travel Blogger, TheWorldInMyPocket

Lana'i Island, USA

"Lana'i is a bit of a wellness paradise that Larry Ellison has sculpted out of the fallow fields left behind by the pineapple industry. While it's not accessible to most due to cost (both Four Seasons properties on-island are expensive, as is travel to Lana'i), the magic of the island is worth it."

Laurie Lyons-Makaimoku @himakaimoku
Writer for Fodor's, Hawai'i Magazine, Local Getaways

Puglia, Italy

"This year my ultimate getaway destination is the Italian region of Puglia known for its slow pace of life, rugged charm and baroque architecture. Not to mention the food. I'm curious to discover what's often considered 'Florence of the South'!"

Kasia Dietz @kasiadietz
Travel Writer for Conde Nast Traveller, NatGeo, BBC, FT

© David Lloyd Photography.

OUT OF AFRICA



David Lloyd

Focus Wildlife

David Lloyd is a London-based award-winning wildlife photographer, originally from New Zealand. He is also an author and safari guide.

David regularly exhibits his work, and previous venues have included the Royal Geographic Society in London. He has won awards for his work which favours a fine art style in both colour and black and white. He has six highly coveted 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' Awards, and has also been awarded in many other international photography competitions. He runs guided photo safaris and tours to India, Kenya and Uganda, and has done for 12 years.

From NZ to London... Why?
It's a long story. I've moved to London twice. Both times for what I believed would be for six months. The first time I remained for six years. The second time is approaching twenty. London has been kind to me.

How did a career in wildlife photography come about?
It came out of three things, my interest in design and art, my interest in nature and wildlife, and my interest in Photography from a young age, encouraged by my father.

It seems like quite an adventurous life. Are you a risk taker?
Well, it's more interesting than my old life in an advertising agency in London. As for risks while photographing, no. I'd much rather look forward to taking more photos than risking what might be a final one.

What would your advice be for someone wanting to follow in your footsteps?
Follow your instincts. With regards to your photography, let your style find you. Trying to 'find' a style only results in mimicking someone else or a hybrid of other people's styles.

Any words of wisdom?
In photographing animals, wait, don't chase.

Life Motto if you have one?
There is a quote by Seneca: "Luck is when opportunity meets preparedness".

Any favourite memories that have stood out since starting your career in wildlife photography?
Being thwacked in the shins by a log-wielding silverback mountain gorilla is one! There are a few. But it is the people I have met who provide the best memories.



"I feel most at home where little is man-made and much is wild and natural."

Any favourite destinations? If so, why?
Kenya is like a second home to me. Based on that, I would have to say Kenya. But no destination is not a favourite. ›



"Luck is when opportunity meets preparedness".

Any spots still on the "bucket' list?
Anywhere where there are icebergs.

How do you reconcile London's "Big City" life and 'off-grid' Africa?
I don't. I've outgrown big cities. The crowds, the congestion, the noise, the pace. Luckily though, I can get away when I want. Arriving home after seven weeks of travel, I do often find it hard to reconcile that less than 24 hours prior I was sitting among a pride of lions or a herd of elephants.

Expat or local?
I guess I'm a bit of both. London has always looked after me and is likely to always be my home, but I will always regard myself as a New Zealander.

Any pros/cons to life as an expat?
London has always looked after me. I have lived in both New Zealand and Australia. For various reasons, I have not found them to have been so kind.

In another life I would have been...
A lawyer I think. To help put things straight for people. I have got a strong sense of justice.

Favourite /most used emoji?
I fear being labelled as dated if I were to tell you!

© David Lloyd Photography.









New for Spring 2024, these are available to purchase together, as a Collector's Edition (only 50 copies available). More information at:

davidlloyd.net

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Georgina Harris Hill

Sweet Charity

Born in the UK to a Brit and Canadian, Georgina spent most of her childhood between Cyprus, France and the US. The eldest of six and single mum of two children she now runs a charity in Tanzania.



Tell us about your background?
At 16 my Dad took me out of school for a year to travel around Russia, Nepal and India, which had a profound impact on me. I returned to the UK for a bit and started studying mostly online while still travelling for a degree, then masters and then short courses in International Development, Global Learning and child rights' in practice.

Why Tanzania?
I travelled to east Africa at 18 and a few times after that. My degree was also very much focused on this region of the world. I originally booked a one way ticket to Tanzania and well over 10 years later, two kids and founding an NGO, I'm still here. I absolutely love this wonderful country.

Tell us how Pamoja Leo came about?
Pamoja Leo's mission was quite a simple one, how do we help babies stay in families and not orphanages? When I discovered that most children in orphanages around the world had families and that poverty, lack of support and bad charity practices were driving kids into orphanages, I really felt like there was a need to do better.

> "In the isolation of being overseas there is a beauty in the connections you can create with others too."

The number one reason a baby ends up in an orphanage for example was if their mum died and their extended family couldn't afford the milk to feed them. So Pamoja Leo's goal was to change these forks in the road type moments. Our mission has always been to support loving women to be the Mums children need. Sounds simple but we are one of the first charities working in this way of caring for children. Our goal is to respond to orphanhood, abandonment and abuse in a child centred, community and family way. Addressing the roots of the issue.

It all started when I found two children abandoned in the street. That one moment, nearly had those kids in an orphanage, but instead a small group of local women, one government social worker and me ended up reuniting those children with their family. That day led to the founding of the charity!

It seems like quite an adventurous life. Were you always a risk taker?
I guess my slightly nomadic childhood meant I was accustomed to change and wasn't as held back by some of the fears of the unknown, the missing people and maybe a little more ok with being outside my comfort zone.

I like to say I'm a cautious risk taker! You wouldn't catch me bungy jumping but I'm game for backpacking around Tanzania with my two kids on my own any day.

Any favourite memories that stand out since starting your life in Tanzania?
Seeing children who I once worried if they'd make it through the night as vulnerable newborns, now come and say hello at age seven in their little school uniform. Honestly, nothing better than seeing the power of a little support and a lot of love, and people working together all in one little child out there living their best life!



What would your advice be for someone wanting to follow in your footsteps?
Take time, seek mentors and advice! No one can do anything alone or in a vacuum. Reach out to others and learn from their wisdom. Balance fearlessness with being informed and prepared, too. The two compliment each other well.

Any words of wisdom?
It takes a village! No matter what it is motherhood, womanhood, life overseas, founder of a non profit, business, etc. Life flows better when we build a strong community of support.

Life Motto if you have one?
Not sure I have one but I have a few quotes I love. "Linda Amani Yako" which means protect your peace in Swahili. And "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's learning to dance in the rain!"

Where is "home" now?
Home is Tanzania. I'm 10 years here now and that's the longest I have lived in any one place. But home is also a little bit of an abstract concept to me and it's fully about a specific place.

Expat or local?
Honestly neither. I tend to say I stay away too long to feel like an expat but not long enough to feel local.

Any pros/cons to life as an expat?
Pros include gorgeous friendships and connections. In the isolation of being overseas there is a beauty in the connections you can create with others, too. In my experience the connections I've made have been so meaningful and deep.

You learn to see life from so many different angles. It's less about a right way and a wrong way but this gorgeous rainbow of different ways, different cultures approach life! I've found that to be such a gift of a life overseas.

Cons: Goodbyes! To family and loved ones. I have five siblings living on four different continents. My kids don't get to see their grandparents as much as we would all like. That's hard.

Misunderstanding can lead to frustration and feeling isolated. Cultural and language barrier means inevitable misunderstandings. These can be hard at times.

In another life I would have been...
Ohh I think maybe a child physiologist. Or a full time traveller!!

"I became especially passionate about orphan trafficking and how to prevent it."



How people can help Pamoja Leo?

1. Follow us on social media. **@pamojaleo**
2. Set up a monthly gift of £14 or £30 **Pamojaleo.org/donate**
3. Donate to our mill for babies campaign to keep our life saving program feeding babies whose Mums have died by supporting women to be their mothers and providing them with the milk they need. **https://donorbox.org/pamojaleo-providing-milk-for-orphaned-babies**
4. Get in touch **Georgina@pamojaleo.org**

Emma Jane Levin

A Wild Ride

Emma Jane Levin is the owner of Ride Egypt, an equestrian company offering riding holidays and excursions in Egypt. She swapped London for Luxor a decade ago.

"Embrace every single challenge with courage, resilience and a sense of adventure."

I grew up in the picturesque New Forest, where my fascination with horses first took root. Like many children, I traded stable work for rides, forging an early love for these magnificent creatures. However, my riding experiences were sporadic due to frequent relocations, until I settled in Richmond, London, and it was there that I fell deeply in love with a grumpy old ex-show jumper named Fletch. Losing him to a devastating injury marked a turning point, reinforcing my profound connection with horses and introducing me to the idea of travelling with horses.

Why Egypt?

My journey to Egypt was unexpected, spurred by a sudden breakup and a need for solace. Seeking refuge in Sharm, Egypt, I stumbled upon a local stable and rediscovered my passion for riding. Meeting Belal, a majestic black stallion, reignited my love for horses and sparked a desire to improve their welfare in Egypt. Despite the challenges of rusty riding skills and unfamiliar desert terrain, I was drawn to the beauty and potential of Egypt's equestrian landscape.

Any favourite moments?

Embarking on the Ride Egypt venture was undoubtedly a risk, but one fuelled by passion and determination. From rescuing neglected horses on the beach to overcoming setbacks like financial losses and betrayal, the journey has been both challenging and rewarding. Yet, amidst the trials, there are countless memories: witnessing the joy of guests exploring Egypt's wonders on horseback, forging deep connections with my horses, and reclaiming the Ride Egypt name after adversity struck. These moments fuel my resolve to continue sharing the beauty of Egypt's landscapes and its rich equestrian heritage.

I have two favourite memories – the first would have to be being reunited with Belal two years after meeting him, shortly followed by the memory of signing the papers to buy him so he would be forever mine. And a close second would be Far and Ride being the first agency to believe in me and give me a chance. We had a meeting at their home, and I remember it was Christmas Eve and the house smelt of



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mince pies and Christmas. I drank gin for the first time and trains were every two hours back to London. I missed my train back by a couple of minutes and had to sit in the cold for two hours waiting for the next one, but I was so happy I didn't care. I will always have this as a favourite memory.

Any Words of Wisdom?

For those considering a similar path, I would urge you to embrace challenges with courage and resilience – it takes bravery and guts and a lot of work (at one point I was working three jobs in London just to fund the building of my new stables) Trust your instincts, prioritise integrity in all endeavours, and cultivate meaningful connections with both animals and people. Remember that setbacks are opportunities for growth, and passion will sustain you through the toughest times.

How do you manage a situation where one rider has more advanced riding skills than their partner, or when a participant is a complete beginner?

We actually have a set criteria for accepting people on our riding holidays, it's listed several times throughout our website, reconfirming on the guests' invoices prior to payment plus in our welcome packs. Guests fill in rider forms also and send them back to us with information of their riding history, horse personalities they enjoy, etc. We do also understand it can be a little nerve-wracking on the first rides together, so we always have breakfast with our groups pre ride to go over anything again. First horses I tend to call "holiday" horses for their first rides anyway. These are fabulous well-trained horses, responsible and respectful with easy steering and breaks. If someone wants a super spicy horse and we feel they are capable we can always provide these also. We get a sixth sense when listening to guests as to which horses would suit them. Our favourite saying is how much chilli do you want with your horse. In cases where we have less experienced riders we always have enough horses and guides to be able to separate guests or make two small groups so everyone can enjoy their own paces. Our entry level is to be able to canter on a well-trained horse unaided in an open space.



Who might you have been in another life?

The Egyptians tell me I look like Cleopatra so I guess this would be the safe answer – but the woman I really respect is Hatshepsut as she was a strong female in a man's world and she broke the rules and rocked it.

Expat or Local?

Egypt has become my home, and I've immersed myself in its rich cultural tapestry. As an expatriate, I've navigated challenges such as cultural adaptation and bureaucratic hurdles, but the rewards have been immeasurable. Living amidst Egypt's diverse landscapes, sharing my love for horses with guests from around the world, and exploring its ancient wonders have enriched my life beyond measure. Despite the occasional hurdles, I cherish the opportunity to forge my own path, create lasting memories and make a positive impact through Ride Egypt's equestrian adventures.

Favourite emojis? 😜🫶

Follow Emma at **@ride_egypt**





Rhea Batik Jumpsuit black
€70 monsoonlondon.com





Caroline Raffia Tote Bag
€50 monsoonlondon.com



Loulou Sunglasses
Saint Laurent Eyewear
€405 farfetch.com

FatFace Maci
Damask Floral Bikini
€60 www.fatface.com



Birkenstocks, Silver
€110 birkenstock.com



St Tropez Style

Pack for a week on the Riviera

Veja Volley Blue
€135 veja-store.com



Linen Decima Dress Turquoise
€228 pinkhousemustique.com



Paul Smith
Shirt Dress
€270 farfetch.com



Diesel Denim Shorts
€130 diesel.com





Balenciaga Engraved
Plate Bracelet
€250 farfetch.com



Lauren Ralph Lauren
Kelly Rib White Tank
€66 farfetch.com

Embroidered Kimono
€70 accessorize.com



Gucci Tinted Cat-Eye-Frame Sunglasses
€360 farfetch.com



Cowboy Hat
€32 oliverbonas.com



Floral Evening Clutch
€35 accessorize.com



Barbour Kelburn Dress
€159 barbour.com



Floral Embroidered Bikini
€60
accessorize.com



Tommy Hilfiger Wedges
€109 laredoute.com



Lotty Kaftan Turtle Trellis Aqua
€445 pinkhousemustique.com



Essential Cabin Case Silver
€710 rimowa.com



Rose Gold Havaianas
€30 laredoute.com



Caroline Raffia Tote Bag
€50 monsoonlondon.com



POV: SOLO TRAVEL CHANGED MY LIFE



Emily Damom swapped a life in Chicago for one on the road, shared with her 155k Tik Tok followers.

She tells WHEREVER how solo travel enriches the soul.

When the boutique interior design firm in Chicago for which I was working was forced to close due to the pandemic, I saw it as an opportunity to travel. With my newly-found freedom after being laid off, I decided to spend six weeks in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The historic walled city, usually overrun with cruise ship day visitors, was left for the locals as no cruise ships were operating at that time. Some of the luxury hotels were also temporarily closed. One of these hotels allowed locals to use its formal gardens and to swim from their private dock. It was my "secret garden" to visit daily for a swim and picnic lunch.

After Croatia, I took an overnight boat to Italy, then a train to Switzerland, and finally, I flew to Istanbul, Turkey. It was a trip that included four different languages, cultures and city architecture.

In each city I visited, I stayed in Airbnb apartments to feel more like a local. I selected homes with real character and enjoyed staying in spaces with varying design styles.

Returning to Chicago, feeling confident from months of solo travel, I decided to go to Bali for an extended stay. My arrival in Bali started with a five-day mandatory quarantine in total isolation. Shortly after my arrival, in response to the pandemic, Bali closed its borders for entry to the world. This meant I had seven months to experience Bali like few have known. Even though I was initially terrified, I learned to ride a motor scooter and it became a source of joy.

After spending seven months in Bali, I missed the history and culture of Europe and decided to come to Portugal. I spent a month in the spring of 2022 in Portugal visiting Porto, Lisbon and the Algarve region. I quickly decided I could make my home in Lisbon. Some of the determining factors included friendly locals, the vibrant architecture, and feeling safe as a solo female.

My original plan was to rent an apartment, but when I visited a beautiful loft in the historic city centre, I immediately knew I wanted to buy the property and make it my home. My home was a source of joy and evolved slowly as I navigated a new country on my own.

One of my most exciting solo trips after moving to Lisbon was to Marrakesh and the Agafay Desert in Morocco. Marrakesh is an easy 90-minute flight from Lisbon, yet offers a completely different culture and landscape. Some of the highlights included navigating the markets on my own, negotiating for traditional Moroccan rugs, visiting a hammam, sleeping in a tent and riding a camel in the desert.

I have shared a visual diary of my travels on Tik Tok/Instagram to inspire other women who want to travel but are scared to do it solo. My motto is "be scared but do it anyways".
You gain confidence as you go until it feels completely natural to be on your own—navigating directions, dining out alone, making an acquaintance at the local coffee shop, etc.

When you are a solo traveller, you have experiences that you would not have if you had a companion. People talk to you, share their stories, and you observe details that you might otherwise miss. Solo travel has been incredibly enriching and life changing for me.

Follow **@emilydamon3**

"THE HARDEST PART OF A SOLO TRIP IS MAKING THE DECISION TO GO."



Tot Travel. 10 Ways to Put the Fun Back in!

It's easy to be apprehensive when travelling with little kids, but it needn't be a nightmare.

Whether it's about avoiding disasters with hungry little ones missing their schedule or packing the right stuff, or even taking time out for yourself, our essential guide will help make your family holiday stress free.

1. Be organised

It might seem obvious, but being organised is the key. Have all your necessary bits and pieces within easy access. Divide and conquer thanks to pockets or ziplock bags, so you can reach anything you need in record time, to cope with any crisis.

2. Don't overdo it

Sometimes it's tempting to schedule too many activities. The idea is to keep the kids happy, but remember that running from A to B does not make for a relaxing time for you, nor the kids, who will also be exhausted, so take some time to do nothing together too.

3. Bring food

Never underestimate the power of food! A hungry little one can prove to be a disaster when travelling. You might think you can always pick up a bite en route, but it helps to have a backup, just in case. In case of delay, you'll be thankful to have an emergency stash!

4. Remember in-travel entertainment

Whether you choose to entertain the junior members of the party with colouring pads, iPads or the classic kid friendly toy cars and dolls, it's key to bring fun items along.

5. Pack light

It's another obvious one but being dragged down with too many bags and too much weight can also make travelling with kids tricky. Pack smart and light.

6. Don't forget yourself

It's easily done to pack a spare outfit for a baby in case of accidents, but it's also easily forgotten to take one for yourself and there's no fun in finishing your journey covered in something unpleasant. So, remember to bring along a spare for yourself, too.

7. Plan ahead

Don't leave anything to chance. When travelling 'en famille', it's essential to have every little logistical detail tied up. Book onward transport or transfers ahead – there's no such thing as winging it with the kids in tow!

"Don't forget to make sure your break is a treat for the entire family, and not just for the kids!"

8. Indulge

Even if budget is an issue, remember to indulge occasionally and treat yourself at the right time. If you need to negotiate a city's underground system after arriving on a late night flight, it might make sense to treat yourself and the family to a taxi. Think about how much the 'hassle factor' is worth to you.

9. Rules are rules

It helps to have the kids understand there are rules and they need to be adhered to. Explain the rules are there for everyone, including parents, such as standing in line for example. It's tough, but a long line for passports or security can be a challenge, especially when the kids don't know about the rules ahead of time. Share all the information with them and explain how it works so they know what's going on.

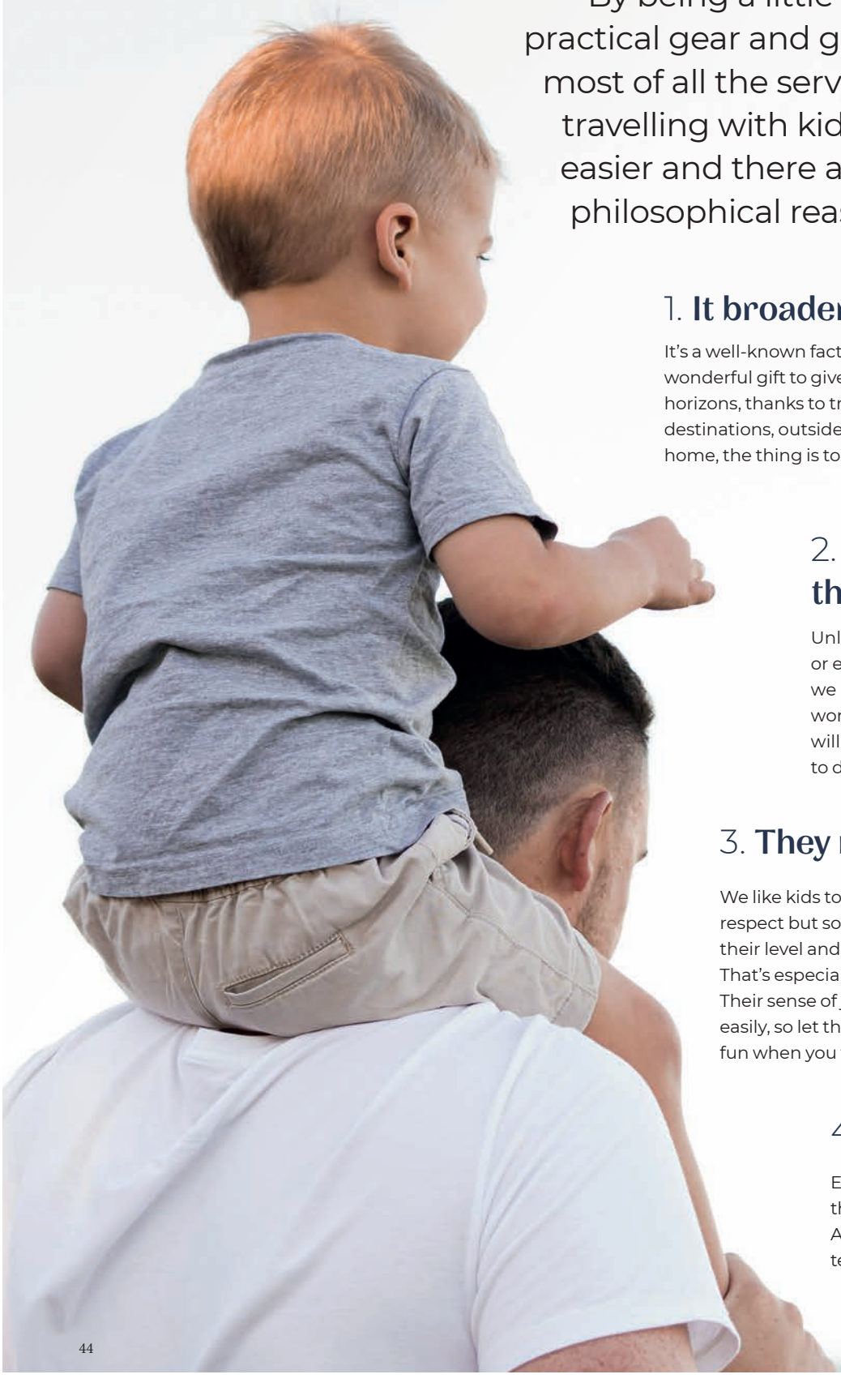
10. Take 'time out'

For yourself! Take a night off and enjoy some adult-only time. Book a sitter, or, if you prefer to keep an eye on them at night, why not book junior into the kid's club and escape to a spa during the day?



15 Reasons to Travel More with the Kids

By being a little organised, with practical gear and gadgets, making the most of all the services available now, travelling with kids has never been easier and there are plenty of good philosophical reasons to do it, too.



1. It broadens their minds

It's a well-known fact that travelling opens your mind. A wonderful gift to give your kids is to broaden their horizons, thanks to travel. Whether it's to far flung destinations, outside your comfort zone or closer to home, the thing is to step out of your usual environment.

2. They see everything through fresh eyes

Unlike us adults, kids aren't as cynical, or even jaded. Though we might think we have 'seen it all before', the kids won't be as 'blasé' as we might be and will see everything anew, enabling you to do the same..

3. They make everything fun

We like kids to behave properly, learn manners and respect but sometimes it's best to get down to their level and adopt their way of doing things. That's especially true when it comes to having fun. Their sense of joy and naïve happiness spreads easily, so let the smiles do their thing and feel the fun when you travel.

4. It educates them

Euripides said "Experience, travel - these are an education in themselves". And indeed there is nothing that teaches you more about life than travel.

5. You'll be extra welcome everywhere

I've never made as many friends as when travelling with my kids when they were tiny. If it's not the kids reaching out to others, it's others feeling they can approach kids, or adults about the kids. I didn't realise this until a four month long trip with my baby and was staggered at how many people freely talked to me - something which never happened before.

6. You'll share amazing experiences

Travelling guarantees you the best, most unusual, fun and unique experiences – from visiting museums in New York, to eating croissants in Paris or wandering the street markets of Bangkok. Put simply, these are all best shared.

7. It's easier now

You can pre-order necessities to a hotel room, book transport ahead, and organise a house swap with a playroom full of toys! Thanks to planning and booking online, a lot of the hassle is taken out of travel.

8. It might not be a budget buster

Plenty of hotels have kids-go-free policies, whether it's 'kid's stay free' or complimentary meals. Do your research and you might find that bringing the kids doesn't have to break the budget. Did you know that in plenty of cities, under 4's travel free on public transport and even on the rail networks, while under 2's fly for free? Check the fine print!

9. Travelling makes the kids more flexible

A little bit of 'hardship' – read being faced with a few 'challenges' —never hurt anyone. Kids are very adaptable, and will surprise you when faced with 'no choice' in the matter; they will rise to the occasion. We hope.

10. The kids will make new friends

Language usually isn't a barrier for kids who always find ways of communicating. They'll meet others anywhere and soon bond and will also help you meet new friends along the way.

11. There's less to worry about

If you are the type of parent who worries about their kids' routine being changed, take comfort in the fact that 'globalisation' has its upsides so if you're concerned about specific foods or drinks, you can rest assured that you'll be able to find most of what you need and want in most places – though perhaps not in the deepest, darkest jungles...

12. Some things you have to travel to see

There are so many things you will only really believe when you see them, and there is so much to see before it disappears forever. The most obvious example is to see animals in the wilderness. Watching a herd of zebras grazing, an elephant at a watering hole or an endangered rhino with your own eyes is something unique.

13. It strengthens family bonds

Travelling together can be tough at times. Everyone remembers a delayed flight or a lost suitcase, but the more you 'survive' together, the stronger your bonds.

14. You're making the best of memories

You won't be making these kinds of memories if you stay home. Whether you're on safari in Africa, cycling the streets of Amsterdam or having fun at Disney World, the kids will remember these times forever.

15. You'll want to share

Let's face it, we all dream of time 'off' – 'adult' time or 'me' time — whatever you want to call it. And, yes, a trip away is an ideal time to have that, but the reality is that as soon as you step away, you'll miss them like crazy and want to share the experience with them for all the reasons listed above!

How to Make Your Summer Family Break the Best Ever

Make a plan. Stick to the plan. Always deliver.

Well, it seems to me that the very concept of taking a holiday in exotic climes should infuse one with happiness...

Mum can already imagine the pristine beaches, the warm water and the glorious cocktails, while surely Dad is projecting himself on the golf course, in the hot tub or working out in the gym with a view – or are we too busy amassing clichés here? The kids, however, are sure to be excited about a beach holiday where the weather is pretty much guaranteed to be good, the breakfast is most likely to be overflowing with great fruit and sweet goodies, and there will be more activities for them than they can fit in for the time they are there. But, of course, there are always ways to make something good, better. To turn something amazing into something awesome! It's a case of planning, thinking and doing. Easy, right?

When should you start making the trip the best ever, you ask? Well, first of all, the prep in the pre-trip stages needs to be right. Do your research. Check the small print, the reviews and don't let yourself be won over by a couple of good photos and hope for the best.

There are so many things to consider. If your family are not early risers, check until what time the breakfast is served. If you like to treat yourself to little extras, check if there is a store nearby or find out how easy it is to go beyond the resort.

Don't assume a thing - don't take anything for granted! If the kids are not very adventurous when it comes to food, then get the resort's menus ahead of time, rather than finding out that it's goat curry a go go every night! It's all in the details.

If you prefer not to spend extra budget, consider an all inclusive – or at least, search for any possible hidden extras that might put a downer on things for you. There's nothing worse than being on your dream break but still watching the pennies.

Is the transfer from the airport included? Are you expected to tip for all your services? Some resorts actively discourage tipping as it's 'all included' and all those tips soon add up!

Not on a full board package? It's also worth investigating the various meal options so you don't have to worry about that on the spot. The more you plan ahead, the more comfortable you will be, the more you will feel in your element. It's worth giving the concierge a call, or dropping him a line to enquire about activities, too.

Setting up a loose schedule or some kind of a plan also helps to maximise your time, and avoids any floundering and time-wasting on the spot. If you're travelling during high season, booking popular activities ahead can also stop any possible deceptions.

And, if you're there for a special occasion, flag it up ahead of arrival, too. Some of the more remote islands and resorts also need a heads-up for anything out of the ordinary, so if you're adamant you need a chocolate cake for a birthday, it's wise to organise that in plenty of time. And don't forget to pack the sunscreen!



"Setting up a loose schedule avoids any floundering and time-wasting on the spot."



14 Packing Tips for a Quicker Getaway

Some might say that packing for a family holiday is the most stressful part of travelling. It's tricky to know just what to bring, and what to leave behind.

Some tend to bring everything including the kitchen sink, while others are blessed with the travel-light gene.

1. Get Ahead
When packing for your family holiday, aim to get the case ready a week before leaving. It might sound ambitious but it will avoid any last minute laundry stress and panic attacks.

2. Size Matters
One always fills whatever space one has, so be cruel to yourself to be kind, and pick a bag a bit smaller than the one you would ideally have.

3. Rolling It
Rolling your clothes reduces their volume. It's also a good way to keep things from getting too crinkled. Jeans and t-shirts are ideal candidates. Use ribbon or rubber bands to keep them in place. Even better, roll outfits together.

4. Use Every Tiny Corner
Don't leave any corner unused. Shoes are ideal hideaways for underwear or socks.



5. Forget Liquids
Toiletries are worth their weight (and then some) in gold. Buy them on the spot, use the amenities or decant into smaller bottles but don't lug around products that will probably come home with you.

6. Check Fabrics
Some fabrics travel better than others. Linen is lovely and light, but does not fare well in scrunched up. Check your fabrics before you pack to avoid useless items on arrival!

7. Ziplocks Rule
Whether you want to bring along a little detergent powder, secure your decanted shampoo container, or keep junior's socks together - or even zip day by day baby outfits together ziplocks are the answer.

8. Colour Code
Stick to one range of clothes colours. Pick items that match each other so you can maximise the combinations, minimising what you bring.

9. Go Tech
Leave the guidebooks behind and download apps or guidebooks so it's all there in one device, which you were going to carry in any case!

10. Emergency Kit
Do bring a small bag of kit in case of emergency. Especially for kids, it's always useful to have their regular medication at hand.

11. Buy Disposable
If you're travelling with a baby, look into the wonderful world of disposables – from bottles to bibs and mats, you can find all sorts of kit to use and bin.

12. Think Laundry
Some hotels charge crazy rates to do your laundry, but some have on site laundry rooms or indeed a local laundrette. Pack less and schedule a load!

13. Until the Bitter End...
Travelling for several weeks with a growing toddler? Bring stuff that's almost too small and discard it en route, creating space for souvenirs!

14. Blow Ups
Space for toys is always an issue. Inflatables are great for the beach, ideal to carry and that big croc won't be missed if left behind...

20 Questions for Where the Kids Roam

Where the Kids Roam is a family of well-seasoned travellers who make the difficult - family travel - look nearly impossible. They have travelled to 70 countries so far – 35 with kids in tow. WHEREVER catches up with Insta-travellers who put the fun back into family travel.

Happy family travel - myth or reality?
We think it's both, actually. A lot of times it's just hard, and we wonder why we're doing this. But as time goes by, some of our toughest travel times become our favourite memories. But maybe this just exposes a character flaw in us.

Best piece of advice on travelling with kids?
Be present. I think anyone who takes their kids travelling must love them, no? So maybe you owe it to yourself and your kids to be off your phone, available, and fully engaged. Your kids may not want to hang out with you forever. I think, personally, we have about four years before our window closes (but then I'll make them go to group therapy so we can still "hang out").

Three Best Travel Hacks you actually use?

1) My kids really don't touch many electronic devices except for when they're on aeroplanes. If your kids are bored on the aeroplane, you'll be miserable. So bring plenty of objects for entertainment. All the objects. Every single one. Not exactly a hack, just common sense sometimes forgotten.

2) Follow the flight deals. For example, search "anywhere" or "Europe" or "I just want to leave my damn city" when searching for flights on, say, Skyscanner or Google Flights. Then just head out alone in the middle of the night, being sure to call your very confused spouse in the morning with a rough estimate of your whereabouts and potential return date.

3) Credit card points. The more I buy, the more free things I get. Thus, wanting lots of free things, I buy a lot. It almost seems too good to be true.

Big no-no when travelling with kids?
Don't lose them. I'm going to go with that. We have those nifty Apple Air Tags.

Plan or wing it?
Here's my serious answer. I think overplanning ruins things. We want a bit of a surprise, so we truly wing it a lot. And, sometimes it really pays off when I genuinely get an awestruck wife ("We spent how much to see a waterfall? Why?", she says in awe).

Best way to save money while travelling?
Make sure your credit card has no foreign transaction fees. Make sure your



bank reimburses your ATM fees. Always reject the credit card currency conversion. Try to pay with your credit card in the local currency. Skip the fancy dinners. Kids don't appreciate the Michelin restaurants at all. Try to find a good city pass (which will sometimes allow you to visit something like eight thousand places for the price of two).

How many World Wonders have you seen? Which one is the best?
We've seen all seven of the new World Wonders as well as the one remaining ancient Wonder. We think the ones where people just stack rocks are the standouts. I actually think I just described all of them.

Best / Worst meal ever?
Best meal I've had is Peking duck in Beijing down a random alley at a place called Liqun. It was like stepping back in time. Worst meal is a tie with the four meals in four different countries that gave me parasites. My wife thinks I should stop ordering the hamburgers in places like Kathmandu. But I really think this diet is working for me.

Best/ Worst accommodation ever?
We absolutely loved the Oberoi chain of hotels in India. Another banger was Mashpi Lodge in Ecuador. Worst accommodation was a US$2/night hotel in Chetumal, Mexico. There was a full shoe print on the pillowcase, a full bloody handprint on the wall, and a marching band waking us up at 7:00 in the morning.

But will the kids remember anything?
Yes, absolutely they remember things. I'm constantly reminded of that one time (one time!) we denied them ice cream on a summer trip to France four years ago.

Worse meltdown/tantrum abroad?
We once had a 10 month old and a 34 year old simultaneously sobbing uncontrollably for three straight hours at the back of an aeroplane on the way to Seoul.

Favourite 'getaway'?
The Algarve in southern Portugal. When we drive there from our home in Spain, it almost feels like another country.

"Some of our toughest travel times become our favourite memories."

Most overrated getaway?
Paris, at the moment, has no redeeming qualities. But maybe we're jaded from the 12 hours we just spent in the emergency room there. And going directly to Disneyland from the emergency room was, admittedly, a bad choice.

Biggest hotel bugbear?
The price. Since we're a family of five, our options are two rooms or the Presidential Suite. It's rarely anything in between. Another source of anxiety is whether the two rooms will be on the same floor and whether the champagne will be properly chilled in the Presidential Suite.

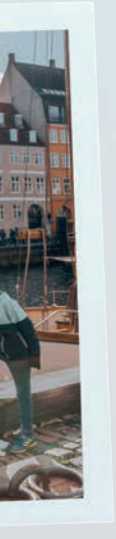
Best bits about being on the road?
The road = freedom. I crave the newness of everything. The challenge. The break from monotony.

Any places still on your "bucket list" to visit?
Why? Yes, Madagascar is calling. It's not widely travelled and looks stellar in terms of flora and fauna.

Any place you'll be going back to... again and again? Why?
We don't love repeating places. But I can never say no to visiting Southeast Asia. The food, people, weather, sites, safety. Love it all.

Any place off your list? Why?
We aren't keen on places where women aren't treated equally.

In another life I would have been...
Indiana Jones? Anything but a lawyer. I chose...poorly.







Follow their adventures **@wherethekidsroam** and wonder (rightfully so) how people who travel soooo much can make soooo many mistakes. But at least they look good doing it, right? RIGHT?

Maayan & Gal

As good as our mindset

A positive approach to expat life.



@smoozitive

Maayan and Gal, life abroad experts, sisters, founders of Smoozitive and creators of SYLA app, are expat experts currently living in France. With Maayan's mindfulness expertise and Gal's positive psychology coaching, they guide people to have a simpler, smooth and positive life abroad.

From FOMO to JOMO

Ever scrolled through your social feed, watching friends from back home enjoying a wine night you can't attend? Followed by a whatsapp message from your expat friends who want to book exhibition tickets at the exact same time you planned to try out a new gym class? That's FOMO in all its glory.

As an expat living life to the fullest, I've come to realise that the fear of missing out (FOMO) is very much present in my life. I want to try everything, experience as much as possible, and do more than is sometimes physically possible. After all, they haven't yet found a solution to be in three places at the same time, right?

> "I've increasingly embraced the feeling of JOMO, and it has made a world of difference."

Perhaps it's my upcoming birthday that has me reflecting, or a general desire to take deeper breaths recently, but I feel like when I fully immerse myself in the present moment — whether it's me-time or time spent with others — I enjoy it better. Usually, the end of those days is so much more satisfying than the ones I spent rushing around like Speedy Gonzales. Quite contradictory to what I wrote earlier, I know.

What if sometimes it's okay to embrace a new approach? Taking a decision to do one thing and feeling joyful about it! How about even taking a step back and savouring the moments of downtime? That's the Joy Of Missing Out = JOMO.

Transitioning from FOMO to JOMO isn't always easy. The key, as with everything in life, is finding a balance between the two. There are periods like this, and others like that.

Over time, it's become clear that true fulfilment doesn't only come from chasing after every opportunity; it can also come from being fully present and engaged in the moments that matter most.

How can you cultivate a sense of JOMO in your expat lives?

1. Set boundaries with social media, and some decluttering is good too.
2. Don't say maybe if you want to say No. And say No with a smile. It's your decision, your life.
3. Practice Mindfulness - it can be a meditation, a moment you stop and fully immerse yourself in the sensations, whatever works for you.
4. Add downtime to your yearly plans - every couple of months preferably.
5. Focus on what is, right now.

You might think that it's easier said than done, but it's actually quite simple. It's a choice. Yours. So the next time you find yourself tempted by the allure of FOMO, take a deep breath, remind yourself that it's okay to slow down, and embrace the joy of being exactly where you are.

Jerramy Fine

Expat Mum Musings

An American author and royal watcher living in London.



@missjfine

Jerramy Fine is an American author who has lived in London for 25 years. Her new novel Royal Resistance is out this summer.

Learning to love exactly where you are.

Where should we go on holiday this summer?" my British husband asked.

"Haven't we literally just been on holiday?" I replied, "Like less than two weeks ago?"

No one else would dream of saying such a thing, but I did, because I'm American and I was raised in a country that has no legal paid leave. I'd lived in London almost ten years, but the idea of multiple vacations a year was still incredibly hard for me to grasp.

According to Forbes Magazine, the average American is lucky to get 10 days of paid holiday per year. After five years of service this could increase to 15 days; after 10 years you might get 17. Meanwhile, most European countries give workers more than a month of paid vacation per year.

> "As expats, all of us live in some of the greatest cities on earth – our everyday "downtime" is already sublime. Sometimes all we have to do is see it."

I'm sure you have heard the majority of Americans do not have passports and this is absolutely true. (The US State Department reports that only 37% of Americans own a valid passport; compare that to 75% of the Brits.) But this isn't because they lack curiosity or wanderlust. This is mainly because with so few days of paid leave, they simply don't have time to travel for anything other than seeing their family at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In this environment, regular holidays abroad can't and don't happen as a matter of course.

Instead, Americans go crazy with other kinds of holidays: Valentines Day, Easter, Halloween, etc – making sure their homes, meals and outfits are completely thematic according to the season. Because without constant foreign travel, you have to think of ways to break up the monotony of the year.

There are rarely any lessons to glean from America, but the idea of learning to love exactly where you are is one of them.

I tried to explain this to my husband: How about instead of constantly, obsessively planning the next holiday, we focus on creating a life that we don't feel the need to escape from?

It was hard for him to flip his cultural paradigm so quickly. Afterall, he'd been brainwashed into believing that true joy and relaxation can only occur when sitting on a lounge chair in a foreign country.

I wasn't saying we should forgo all travel (far from it), but I wanted us to be capable of happiness, even when we weren't travelling.

I don't mean staycations. I mean having neighbours over for casual drinks or an impromptu BBQ, or walking around the local parks, or Sunday brunch in your favourite neighbourhood spot. I love London so much and I'm so thankful to live here that I could easily do these three things over and over again and die happy. (And none of it requires packing lists, or last-minute pedicures, or dog-sitters or figuring out how to use airmiles – much less lugging travel cots, strollers and car seats through the airport.)

Alex Story

Stories From Salzburg

When a father of four moves his family from Richmond to Austria.



@alexpstory

Aside from writing, Alex runs a private placement company working closely with Private Equity and VC funds. He rowed for Great Britain at the Olympic Games and won the Boat Race for Cambridge on two occasions.

Welcome to Toytown

In late 2015 as I was sitting in traffic in Richmond, with four crying children on the backseat, only a mile distant, but hours away, I realised we needed to leave the big smoke. Our destination? Salzburg - A Toytown in the Alps.

In the background, the majestic Untersberg rises to close to 6,000 feet. The peak is snow-covered most of the year. A few miles away there are enormous freshwater lakes of the clearest blue, surrounded by a very Austrian combination of a wild and manicured countryside. Salzburg is an architectural treasure trove. The mix of mediaeval and baroque buildings in the town centre gives the curious eye a great deal to contemplate. One never quite gets over the legerete of the scene. It civilises.

> "Women wear their incredibly feminine dirndls; the men their leather trousers – not the Soho kind."

Sitting atop the Monchsberg, one finds the Fortress. It stood guard over the wealthy populace for a thousand years. Nowadays, though, the fortress is well known to tourists and fully alien to locals, who barely take notice. They are much more likely to visit Sporer, a wine bar in summer; a punch specialist in winter, when temperatures crash below zero.

Beyond the city limits, the region is full of wonder. One finds oneself very quickly in the middle of a dairy producing setting, with comfortable cows, chewing on lusciously green grass, waving their tails lazily in a forlorn effort to swat away overweight flies.

Don't be surprised to hear marching bands fronted by a cross-carrying priest, followed by an umpapa band, playing tunes that befit the landscape and lift the soul, and by hundreds of locals in their traditional outfits.

They always head to the nearest beer tent to celebrate one of their many Saints' days. This type of communal occasion is mesmerising. The menu itself is testament to the beauty of unchanging traditions: cool beers, pork, sausages and chips. Before long, you look up to the skies, your arms stretched out, beer in hand, singing Alpine songs in a strong German dialect, having never spoken the language before. Who said learning German was difficult?

Truly, the hills are alive with the sound of yodelling. And here they call this vibe: gemütlichkeit. It's "cosy" on steroids and defines the region in a nutshell. Regarding the seasons, spring and autumn barely make an appearance. The last weekend of April, a foot of snow fell in and around the city; the week after, there we were, one and all, celebrating summer's precocious arrival.

The weather keeps you on your guard. It can get cold and dark very quickly, but in this ancient land, hope is a promise that is always fulfilled. For children, the peace of the society the Austrians built, the winter snows and summer's heat make it a European Garden of Eden. For us parents, hearing the children laugh, run around, ski in winter and swim in summer - safe and sound - it surely is.

Randi Levinson

Love and Intimacy in Relationships

The Expat Love Coach



@randilevinson

Randi is an Individual and Couples Therapist and Certified Clinical Sexologist from LA.

"Self-care and relaxation are essential for individuals to replenish their energy and foster inner peace."

Taking Time Out

In our modern world, amidst the whirlwind of responsibilities and distractions, self-care often becomes an afterthought. As a psychotherapist, I've seen firsthand how important prioritising self-care, time for reflection and gaining an understanding that your coupledom is composed of two very different people. Taking the time for this sort of care can not only enhance personal well-being but also fortify the bonds of marriage.

Self-care and relaxation are essential for individuals to replenish their energy and foster inner peace. Whether through meditation, hobbies, or simply unplugging from technology, moments of solitude allow for decompression from stressors. By tending to one's own needs, individuals cultivate a sense of balance and resilience, enabling them to bring their best selves to the partnership.

Differentiation is a cornerstone of psychological well-being. This concept acknowledges the importance of maintaining a sense of self within relationships. It involves balancing personal needs and values with those of a partner, fostering mutual respect and authenticity. Cultivating differentiation empowers individuals to assert their uniqueness while nurturing the connection with their spouse, creating a relationship built on mutual understanding and support.

The benefits of self-care extend beyond personal well-being—they are essential for fostering a thriving marriage. Partners who prioritise their own self-care are better equipped to contribute positively to the relationship. By nurturing their own well-being, individuals can show up as more attentive, compassionate, creating an environment of mutual respect and love.

Moreover, having downtime together creates opportunities for couples to deepen their emotional connection. Shared activities, such as hiking or cooking, meaningful conversations over dinner strengthen the bond between partners, building intimacy and trust. Through prioritising self-care, couples can navigate challenges with grace and resilience, creating a partnership that flourishes even in the face of adversity.

Adding further detail, consider a scenario where a couple engages in a regular self-care routine, such as practising yoga together or taking walks in nature. These activities not only promote individual well-being but also strengthen the bond between partners as they share meaningful experiences and support each other's growth. Similarly, differentiation may involve setting boundaries around personal space or hobbies, allowing each partner to maintain their sense of self while nurturing the connection with their spouse. This balance fosters a relationship dynamic where both individuals feel respected, valued, and fulfilled.

In essence, self-care and differentiation are not indulgences, they are essential components of a healthy, fulfilling life and a thriving marriage. As a psychotherapist, I encourage individuals and couples alike to prioritise these practices, recognizing that by nurturing their own well-being and fostering differentiation, they are also nurturing the strength and resilience of their relationship. Take a moment to pause, breathe, and invest in yourself, and watch as your marriage blossoms in the light of your renewed vitality and connection.

Cruisin' in Style

Rowena Carr-Allinson embarks on the Lagoon 440 - Just Cat to discover the Algarve's coastline in the lap of luxury.







When the idea of writing an article about taking a day cruise around the Algarve coast first came up, I was worried about not having enough to go on, not enough to write about. But, the truth is a day out on the Just Cat Lagoon 440 catamaran is full of action.

First of all, there's exploring the boat with its many nooks and crannies. There's the panoramic flybridge, the bow lounge deck, two large "nets" at the front that are big enough for four people and home to giant grey beanbags, picture perfect against the aquamarine seas. There's also seating for a dozen others, all at the front to enjoy the views and feel the wind in your hair! At the back, more comfy seating around a table which can sit 10 to 16 for lunch. This boat is basically big enough for an impromptu game of hide and seek!

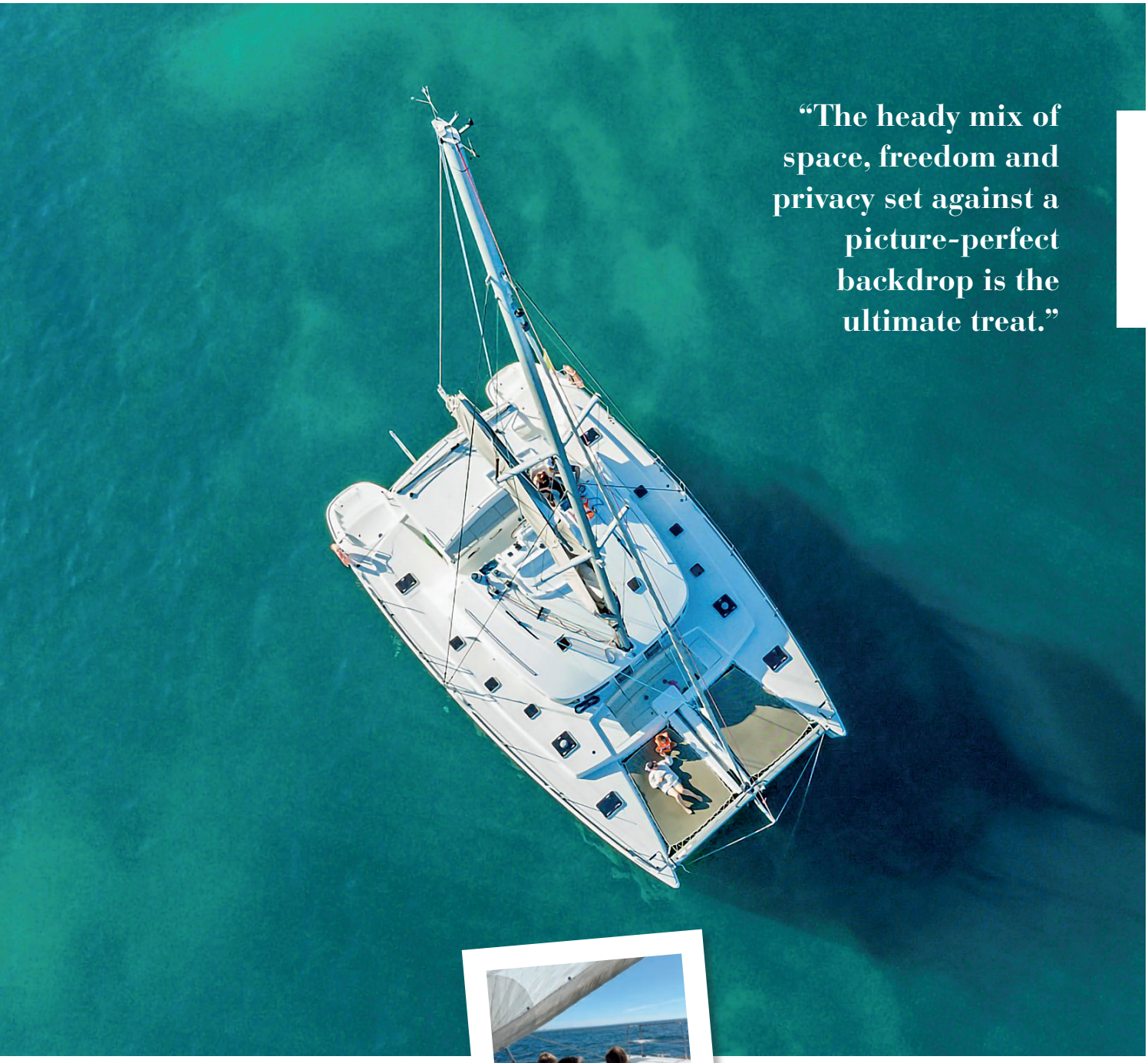


Rudi, the captain, gives us a welcome talk, with a few rules and regulations — mostly common sense stuff — and shortly after we're off, leaving Lagos Marina behind. Tina, his crewmate, gives us the lowdown on the sights and landmarks as we leave the harbour and head onto Praia De Luz, taking in the beautiful, rugged coastline, all dramatic cliffs and tempting waters. She tells us about the hiking routes along the cliff sides and the secret beaches, as well as a surprising number of 'animals' on show — who knew we had camels and elephants in the Algarve? The crew is so friendly, we're immediately at ease.

> "The pre-teens commandeer the kayak and head off into the caves for an adventure."

We drop anchor outside of Alvor to make the most of the on-board entertainment. Watersports aplenty. There's a kayak and stand up paddle boards, and snorkelling gear, too. The kids make the most of all the gear, trying out their stand up paddle board skills and of course, there's always jumping off the boat! There's time for a little snorkelling, a peek 'under' the catamaran, and before we know it, lunch is served! While the crew keep a watchful eye on the kids, as they're still messing around in the water, it's time to enjoy lunch and a glass of rosé.

Our picnic is a feast of dips, chips, Moroccan chicken wraps, a cheese board,



> **“The heady mix of space, freedom and privacy set against a picture-perfect backdrop is the ultimate treat.”**





fruit and homemade lemon cake washed down with cold Sagres. It’s simply blissful. After a little digestive rest, we head East towards Portimão.

We drop anchor in a little cove near Praia de Rocha with plenty to explore. The pre-teens commandeer the kayak and head off into the caves for an adventure. While we take in the dramatic cliffs, all golden ochre and dusky reds, they enjoy their new-found freedom.

The landscape is magnificent, and it’s hardly surprising that this is one of the busiest spots in the summer. But off-season we are only competing with a handful of other boats for the beautiful scenery. Surely this is the very definition of luxury? The heady mix of space, freedom and privacy set against a picture-perfect backdrop is the ultimate treat. Having these views to yourself, sharing moments with family or friends, enjoying the best life has to offer, that’s what being truly spoiled feels like. Chartering a boat for the afternoon offers those very things. It really delivers.

Time flies by on board and before we know it, it’s time to head back to reality. As we set off into the horizon, rocked by the swell and the easy tunes, my son comments that this feels just “like the end of a movie”. And he’s right. It is the perfect moment, complete with relaxing theme tune and a warm happily-ever-after glow.

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Members Only

WHEREVER's resident car geek William Lansbury gets a special invitation to The 81st Members' Meeting at Goodwood.





Although up at dawn I was still late and stuck in a traffic jam. I didn't mind because I was surrounded by lovely old cars. Austins, Morris, Rovers, MG's, every marque is represented, even 1950s Rolls and Bentleys, and we were all on the way to The 81st Members' Meeting at Goodwood.

The Members' Meeting is a weekend of historic motor racing, offering the enthusiast a full menu of racing, on track displays, music and even fireworks. You need to make a plan as there is so much to see and do. Study the circuit map and timetable, make a note of where the eateries and toilets are because you don't want to miss any of the action.

There are over a dozen races and lots of on track displays from Edwardian racing cars, Can-Am sports cars, Formula 1s, and making a debut this year, motorcycle sidecars. We all know that racing drivers are jolly types, happy to explain exactly how they have vanquished their fellow competitors. Sidecar racers are different, they aren't like the rest of us normal types.

This was the first time I'd seen sidecars in action. The idea is that the driver drives and the passenger jumps from side to side to change the balance of the bike through the bendy bits, all this insanity happens an inch off the ground at 160mph.

I'd be terrified and hanging on for dear life but after the event they look like they have had a sedate drive to the local supermarket and managed to get a particularly good deal on tea bags.

Motor racing is like ballet, the cars describing graceful arcs as they four-wheel drift, their engines providing the orchestra. At Goodwood you can get really close to this music, in the paddock and out on the circuit. I recommend the left handed bend called St. Mary's. From here you can get up close to the action.

I found a gap in my timetable and decided to enjoy a spot of lunch. Although there is food available all around the circuit, I decided to eat in a re-creation of the Great



Hall from Hogwarts School, complete with masters in gowns and pennants and armorial shields hanging from the ceiling.

After lunch there was more on track action, with a demonstration of the hugely powerful Can-Am sports racing cars and Gerhard Berger blasted around the track in his 1989 Formula 1 Ferrari. Races at this event are named after famous drivers and riders and the last race of the day was in honour of the illustrious racer, Gordon Spice. ›

“I wonder if this is as close to motoring heaven as you can get?”









This was a two-driver race for saloon cars from the 1970s and early 80s. As it started at 6:45pm, the cars raced into the dusk with the aroma of an English spring rising from the damp earth, with the backdrop of the South Downs and the Edwardian carousel thumping out tunes as the headlights flashed past the pits. I wonder if this is as close to motoring heaven you can get?

As the race ended I became aware of a syncopated drumming. I assumed someone was having a party but it was a 56-piece Brazilian street band. As they were being followed by a procession of tweed-covered race goers, I stepped in line trying to emulate some of their rhythmic moves. The band led through trees lit by fairy lights to an area with lots of places to buy food and where various bands performed

"Motor racing is like ballet, the cars describing graceful arcs as they four-wheel drift."

energetically. I watched the crowd jumping about, which proves the Goodwood race fan is young at heart. The day was brought to an end by a truly spectacular firework display and then the crowd melted away looking forward to what the next day would bring.

Sunday offered an incredible programme of racing. I thought I'd beat the crowds and get there really early but thousands of others had the same thought. I picked a spot on the roof of the pits, which is a great place to watch the race start. It's also a great place to survey the paddock, which looks beautiful with its blossom trees and historic racing cars.

The first winner of the Monaco Grand Prix, William Grover Williams, was celebrated in an all-Bugatti race. Niki Lauda was also celebrated by an on track display of his championship winning McLaren and he, like William Grover Williams, was so much more than "just a racing driver".

After another lunch at Hogwarts dining hall, I watched from the chicane and from here you can see the concentration on the face of the drivers; but I suggest you wear ear plugs because the cars are accelerating hard so using all of their revs.

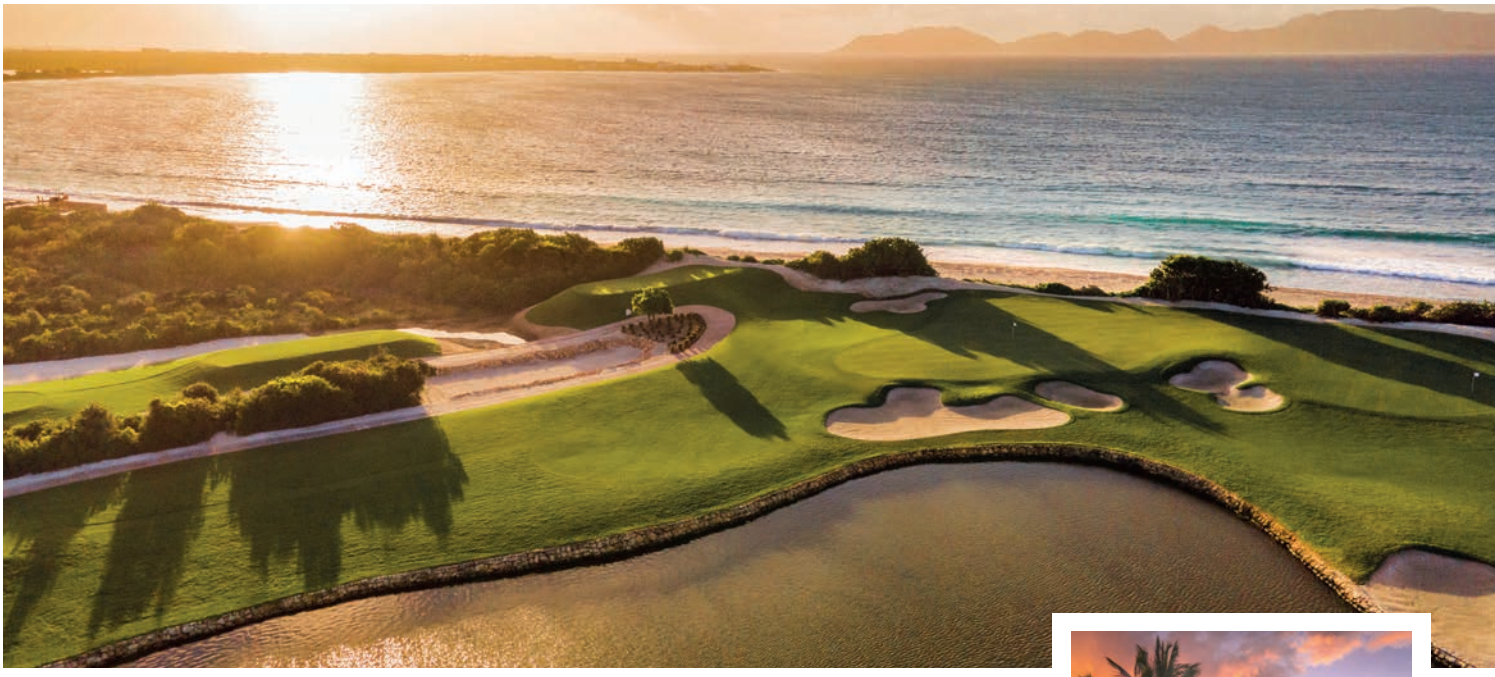
After the last race a tranquillity descends. Spectators wander around the paddock to drink in the last of their weekend and, as they make their way back across the fields to their cars, content and happy, they imagine they too could drive these cars.

When the last transporter leaves and the gates of the circuit are shut the fox and the badger reclaim their territory and sniff the damp earth of an English spring.

Exotic Golf Getaways

Why compromise between a love of travel and a passion for golf when you can indulge in both in one exotic getaway?

WHEREVER's Taryn King explores three luxurious resorts that strike the perfect balance between allowing golf enthusiasts to spend time on legendary courses while exploring unforgettable destinations.



Aurora Anguilla Resort and Golf Club, Caribbean

Nestled between land and sky, the natural beauty of Anguilla Island creates the perfect backdrop for the ultimate Caribbean escape. Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club is pure paradise, from its pristine sands to its panoramic water views.

Aurora Anguilla proudly boasts the island's two exclusive golf courses, the acclaimed Greg Norman Signature Design 18-Hole International Course and the Avalon Links short course. The awe-inspiring panoramic views of St Martin and the Caribbean Sea provide an exhilarating setting for the challenging, dramatic holes, creating an unforgettable golf experience.

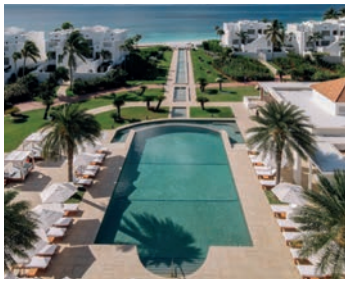
With a choice of 178 luxurious suites and villas, this intimate and casually sophisticated beachfront resort invites guests to make the most of all the island has to offer. In addition to the magnificent beaches, there is a plentiful array of carefully curated activities and events designed for guests to enjoy, including specialised golf clinics with PGA-certified professionals.

A unique culinary journey awaits with six diverse dining opportunities, each offering a different experience, from casual to upscale. The menus are carefully crafted by talented chefs, drawing inspiration from the island's local flavours and 10,000-square-foot hydroponic gardens, which provide fresh produce, herbs and fruits daily. The award-winning Sorana Spa uses refined techniques and natural elements from the island to create a serene oasis of relaxation and rejuvenation.

auroraanguilla.com ›









> “The estate’s 18-hole golf course is one of the finest private courses in Europe and the only Continental European designed by world-renowned US golfer and British Open winner Tom Weiskopf.”

Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco, Tuscany

Situated within the UNESCO-listed Val d’Orcia Natural Park, in the Brunello di Montalcino wine-making region, Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco is a 5,000-acre country estate founded by Massimo and Chiara Ferragamo.

The Italian resort is a celebration of the natural beauty and rich gastronomic heritage of Tuscany. The 900-year-old estate comprises ancient castle ruins, a medieval church, and the borgo, a historic village that now forms the heart of the resort.

The estate’s 18-hole golf course is one of the finest private courses in Europe and the only Continental European designed by world-renowned US golfer and British Open winner Tom Weiskopf. Weiskopf’s Tuscan masterpiece is exquisitely blended into the soft curves and contours of the estate’s rolling hills and valleys with panoramic views across the landscape.

Occupying a former rustic farmhouse, the Club House comprises a bar, pro shop, changing rooms and practice facilities. Resident Rosewood guests enjoy privileged access to The Club, with a limited number of reserved tee times.

The resort features 42 spacious suites and 11 luxury villas. Warmed by gentle Tuscan hues, these exude harmony and offer exceptional comfort and the chance to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. The activities and excursions on offer at the retreat are designed to celebrate the region’s landscape and culture, with two authentic restaurants, a cooking school, an organic kitchen garden and a pampering Spa. The estate also includes a historic Brunello di Montalcino winery.

rosewoodhotels.com/en/castiglion-del-bosco













Fancourt, South Africa

Fancourt is located in the heart of the spectacular Garden Route, spanning across 613 hectares of pristine countryside at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains. It is home to some of the world's most spectacular and rewarding golf courses.

There are three Gary Player designer courses, each with its own unique character and allure. The Links, measuring up to the highest international standards, is Fancourt's flagship course. The design of the course was modelled on the links courses of the British Isles and, unsurprisingly, Gary Player has described it as his greatest ever feat as a course designer. The Montagu course, with its rolling fairways and strategically placed bunkers, will challenge even the most experienced of golfers. The Outeniqua course provides a more relaxed golfing experience, with its astonishing views of the surrounding mountains and forests.

Fancourt offers a prestigious golfing academy with lessons by PGA professionals, utilising the latest technology to help golfers of various ages and skill levels to enhance their golf abilities.

The resort boasts two five-star hotels, the Fancourt Hotel and The Manor House Boutique Hotel, which offer unrivalled luxury and hospitality. There is an array of activities on offer, including The Spa with an indoor heated Roman Bath and world class wellness treatments. Four top restaurants each offer a distinctive dining experience to appeal to every palate. Fancourt is also an ideal base from which to explore the wonders of the Garden Route with its glorious beaches, quaint coastal towns, mountain biking, horse riding and hiking.

fancourt.co.za





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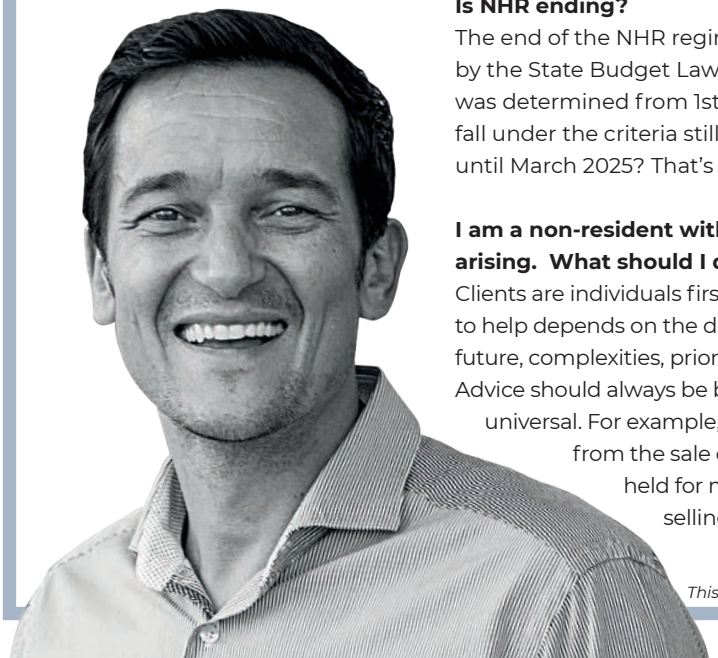
A QUESTION OF FINANCE

With 20 years' experience living and working in Portugal, **Raoul Ruiz Martinez** manages RZ Financial Planning, a Private Office Service company.

"QUESTIONS CAN EASILY TURN INTO PUZZLES TO BE RESEARCHED AND FOR SOLUTIONS TO BE SOURCED."

Got a minute?

Why don't you send your queries about your move to Portugal to Raoul via ***hello@wherevermags.com*** *and we will get his response in the next issue!*



Questions are my business. I love questions. These days very few are simple, most are complex. Across sectors in which we provide guidance we continue to see an increase in complex questions from prospective clients. It's a tough start for a novice writer, like me, so I thought I would report on the common questions posed across the investment, taxation, legal and immigration sectors.

How do I balance my personal privacy and compliance?
Transparency obligations are being intensified by governments. Protecting your personal information and balancing compliance is a growing concern. This is a question that is relevant to all of us regardless of our wealth. Ensuring that information shared by financial institutions is correct so as not to trigger penalties or audits. Understanding specific legal and regulatory requirements governing privacy rights and tax compliance in the jurisdictions relevant to your life. Our geographical mobility has grown, and for individuals who hold assets the rise of data security has increased. What makes a real difference is the bringing together of your investment, tax and legal advisors where they work holistically, communicatively and the flow of information is managed for you.

Is NHR ending?
The end of the NHR regime was determined by the State Budget Law 2024. The end date was determined from 1st January 2024. Do I fall under the criteria still available to apply until March 2025? That's the question!

I am a non-resident with capital gains arising. What should I do?
Clients are individuals first and foremost. How to help depends on the direction of their future, complexities, priorities and lifestyle. Advice should always be bespoke and not universal. For example, are gains arising from the sale of a holiday home held for many years? Are you selling a holiday home in order to upscale to a larger property as you have decided to move permanently? Are you selling a rental property? Many individuals receive blinkered advice because their advisor did not ask them enough questions.

Is there a replacement for NHR?
There is a new program. ITS — Incentivised Tax Status Program or Tax Incentive for Scientific Research and Innovation. This program was proposed in the State Budget. The criterion for this program differs from NHR. Would it be the right fit for you? Perhaps. Take advice.

Basic advice for a US citizen moving to Portugal?
Portugal is on the radar for US citizens, and rightly so. Basic steps to consider include visas, location and taxes. US citizens are required to obtain a visa to relocate. Depending on your eligibility and circumstances there are options for suitable visa types.

Location, location, location. Finding the right location to settle is tough in Portugal. Far too many wonderful options in all regions. Buy or rent?

Taxation. Navigating the US and Portuguese systems is a challenge. Having a dual handler managing both accountants in their respective jurisdictions is a great benefit.

What should I be looking for when seeking any advice in Portugal?
Rapport. The rapport between you and your advisor and beyond, between each and all your advisors across sectors. Without that rapport the ability to uphold each individual client's needs can disintegrate. Should you be an entrepreneur with apartments in different countries, with revenue arising from multiple sources, that quality of rapport expands to help consolidate assets, taxation and others. I value rapport.

E hello@rzfinancialplanning.com
W rzfinancialplanning.com

This article is not financial, investment or legal advice.



With thanks to TopTenRealEstateDeals.com Photos: Adrian Anz, Courtesy Coldwell Banker



Gisele's Swish Ranch

WHEREVER tours the supermodel's US$11.5 million home in Surfside, Florida.



© A.RICARDO / Shutterstock.com

Located near the Everglades about halfway between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Gisele has moved to Southwest Ranches. A rural neighbourhood of large estates, including quite a few equestrian ranches, which led to the town's name, it's also home to a few local celebrities including Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Chicago Bears stars Devin Hester and Brandon Marshall, and Miami Heat star Udonis Johneal Haslem.

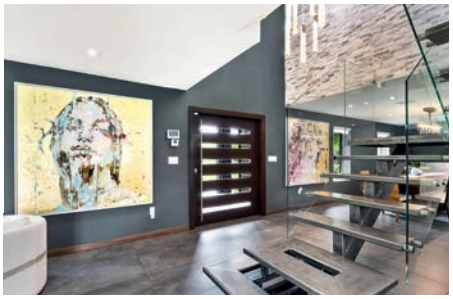
Gisele Bündchen, born on July 20, 1980, in Brazil, is a renowned supermodel and philanthropist. Rising to fame in the late 1990s, Bündchen quickly became one of the most sought-after models in the fashion industry. She graced the covers of countless magazines and walked the runways for top designers around the world. Beyond her success in modelling, Bündchen is also known for her advocacy work. She has been a vocal supporter of environmental causes, promoting sustainable living and conservation efforts. In 2004, she became a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme. ›

"HORSES ARE ALMOST AS COMMON AS PEOPLE IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES WITH MILES OF PARKS AND TRAILS TO RIDE."





Bündchen's influence extends beyond the fashion world. She's ventured into entrepreneurship with successful ventures such as her line of sandals, Gisele Bündchen Ipanema, and authored a book titled "Lessons: My Path to a Meaningful Life", where she shares insights on her career, personal life and mindfulness. She is also a mum to two teenage children from her marriage to Tom Brady.





Gisele has owned multiple properties with her former husband, including homes in New York, Massachusetts, Montana and Florida. Her new ranch is just across the water from Tom's home in Indian Creek.

"BÜNDCHEN'S INFLUENCE EXTENDS BEYOND THE FASHION WORLD."

Highlights of Gisele's new home covering almost 5,200 square feet include a first-floor primary suite with its own sitting area and private bathroom, an open concept living room with a fireplace and a floating-glass staircase, a gourmet kitchen with Italian Calacatta quartz countertops and a built-in bar. There is also an outdoor kitchen with a hibachi grill, pizza oven, BBQ pit, and a wine fridge, not to mention plenty of space for horses, chickens and other farm animals.



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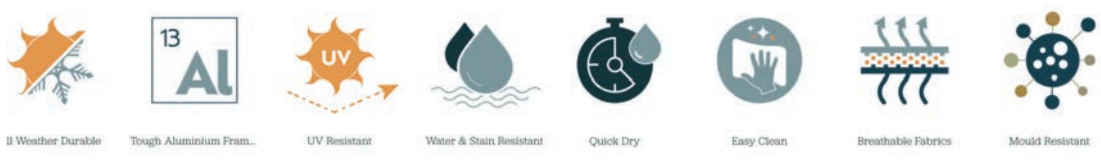
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Portugal's Enduring Appeal: Beyond Investment Incentives

Scott Kirk, CEO of BuyProperty.com says the appeal of Portugal transcends mere financial incentives.

In recent years, Portugal has cemented its status as a top destination for expatriates and real estate investors, attributed not only to its inviting climate and rich culture but also to favourable investment incentives. However, despite recent that saw the phasing out of some of these incentives, such as the Golden Visa for real estate purchases and the availability of AL licences for short-term rental properties, the allure of Portugal remains strong. The enduring question is, why do property prices continue to soar even as the number of buyers dwindles?

Previously, Portugal offered a plethora of incentives that made it an attractive option for foreign investment. Low borrowing rates, beneficial tax policies, and residency options like the Golden Visa program facilitated a real estate boom. These programs were specifically designed to attract foreign capital to Portugal's property market and were highly successful. However, with the removal of these incentives, one might have expected a cooling down of the market. Instead, the opposite has occurred. Prices continue to rise, suggesting that the appeal of Portugal transcends mere financial incentives.

The real draw of Portugal lies in its intrinsic qualities — factors that continue to attract individuals and families from around the world to live or spend their holiday. Safety, quality education, excellent healthcare, well-maintained infrastructure and a welcoming community are the cornerstones of Portugal's appeal. These aspects of Portuguese life are not transient perks tied to temporary incentives but are enduring attributes that contribute to a high quality of life.

For residents like me, who have chosen to make Portugal home, these qualities matter more than the now-defunct fiscal enticements. It appears that the Portuguese property market has evolved beyond dependence on financial incentives, resting now on the solid foundation of the quality of life it offers and the financial incentives that remain.

For many, including my family and me, choosing Portugal as our home was about embracing a lifestyle that is both enriching and fulfilling. This deep-seated commitment to the country is exactly why property prices have continued to climb. Unlike other European nations where property markets have struggled, Portugal has remained a stable and appealing investment. The simple truth is that there are not enough properties to satisfy the increasing number of people eager to call Portugal their home. This trend shows no signs of reversing anytime soon, which means property prices are likely to keep rising.

> "Unlike other European nations where property markets have struggled, Portugal has remained a stable and appealing investment."



Scott Kirk,
CEO BuyProperty.com



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TSS Design

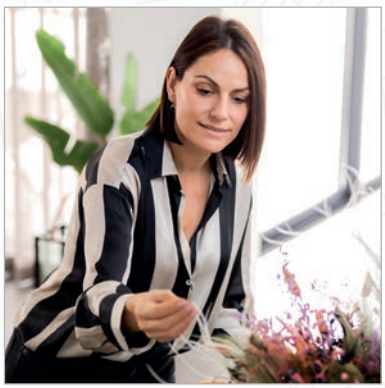
Designed for ROI

Sofia Sardo by Design gives WHEREVER the lowdown on interior design buzzwords 'home staging' and 'home styling' and reveals why they're beneficial in boosting your ROI, can increase property sales and generate revenue.

When it comes to interior design, there is a common misconception that it involves knocking down a few walls; purchasing nice furniture and fitting decorative soft furnishings, but it is so much more than that. Over the years the industry has seen trends come and go and agencies pivoting services required to fulfil them.

One service that has garnered much attention is home staging and styling, but not many people know much about this nifty skill in an interior designer's artillery and could be missing out on the many benefits of this service.

> "Home staging is considered a temporary measure to create appeal for a specific goal in mind."



Initially, the concept of home staging and styling was born from the idea of using selective decorative pieces or items of furniture to enhance a property's aesthetic appeal. Props and goods on loan were brought into a space to add to the appeal without the financial commitment of a full renovation or turnkey execution. As time has progressed, home staging and styling services extend into the realm of using 'pre-loved' goods and existing items within the home that could be repurposed, upcycled and given a new lease of life.

So, what exactly are Staging and Styling as separate interior design concepts and how can they benefit you?

Staging a Home

A staged home limits individualistic styles and personalisation to allow potential buyers and investors to easily envisage their own furnishings and fixtures. Home staging involves skilfully adding decorative props, soft furnishings, plants and furniture into the home for the purpose of increasing value and optimising potential to the widest possible range of prospective buyers, investors and holiday makers.

Styling a Home

Professionally styling and pairing fixtures and decorative pieces to create impact with the design brief and client desired outcome in mind. Home styling creates a lifestyle through curating and pairing key decorative pieces together and better utilising existing items within the home to create a considered and coherent theme throughout.

When considering ways to boost interest in your property, generate footfall for seasonal rentals or increase your ROI, home staging and styling could be just the strategy you need to achieve these goals.

Beyond its surface appeal, home staging and styling have the potential to enhance the perceived value of your property, attract potential buyers, generate seasonal rental footfall and accelerate the sales process if your property is on the market.

At Sofia Sardo by Design we present your home in the best possible light, our skilled interior designers attend the site to assess and evaluate your current space and look to provide temporary and sometimes permanent solutions to creating a well-rounded and considered space. Once the evaluation has taken place, the design team provides guided advisories on upscaling pieces within the home, as well as cosmetic upgrades, where required, to create desired interest while maintaining budget and project timescales.

Investing in property within highly sought-after areas in the Algarve entails a significant commitment. Securing a trusted interior designer is equally significant.

Get in touch with us today to discuss how we can bring your vision to life

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Welcome to Your New Home

The Agency Portugal opens a brand new office in Cascais.

Cascais is the number 1 destination for many when selecting an area to settle in Portugal. The main reasons are the various beaches, the lifestyle, the community, the choice of international schools and its proximity to Lisbon. Cascais' unique infrastructure makes it an appealing choice to many, despite the above-average real estate prices.

We work with individuals, families, investors and foreign partners daily when finding new homes, building plots or investment options for them. At the same time, we consult and assist owners with the sales process of their properties by thinking outside the box, following a collaborative approach and utilising the global network of The Agency's colleagues and partners.

Although the admiration for Cascais, Sintra and Lisbon is immense, there is an increased number of clients expanding their area of interest to the Silver Coast. Individual reasons vary, but the attractive cost of real estate is often mentioned. Therefore, it is vital to understand each client's needs and expectations before starting to work together. Based on this growing interest amongst the community, the stunning Silver Coast, or Costa de Prata, as the locals call it, deserves our attention.

The area, which stretches from Lisbon to Porto and is approximately 240km long, is exciting for clients who seek a combination of picturesque and wild coastlines, greenery, historic charm and a high quality of living, with easy access to Lisbon in the south and Porto in the north. Coastal towns like Nazaré, Peniche and Ericeira, along with inland cities like Torres Vedras and Óbidos, are among the popular locations. Compared to the Algarve, which is also famous for its coastline, the beaches are wilder and untouched, great for surfing, with far less development and crowds than the south of Portugal. Another advantage that the West Coast of Portugal offers is that the number of residents and visitors is less seasonal, making it a more stable option with rental and purchase opportunities available throughout the year.

> "Although the admiration for Cascais, Sintra and Lisbon is immense, there is an increased number of clients expanding their area of interest to the Silver Coast. The Maspero-Müller Group covers it all."

It is no secret that the Silver Coast prices have also increased with the influx of expats and international investors all over Portugal. However, they remain very attractive compared to many other parts of Europe. The property market caught up with the far more developed areas around Cascais, Lisbon, and you can find family homes, functional modern apartments, rustic quintas and luxurious villas, as well as community villa living. Based on the expanding market and clients' interest, our team has adapted, and we now cover the area between Lisbon and Porto. To have a better understanding of what areas best suit your needs, as well as what types of real estate the local market offers, please get in touch.



We are always here for you!
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Spacemakers Studio

Ana Proença and Celia Mestre share their story and how their vision has led them to work from Portugal to Russia, from small spaces to large scale projects and big brands like Hilton and FIFA.



spacemakers
ARQUITETURA & DESIGN INTERIORES



"We have a personal and personalised approach."

Tell us a bit about your background and how Spacemakers came to be in Lisbon?
I graduated in architecture in Lisbon and my first years of experience as an architect in national and international design and advertising agencies allowed me to get to know, beyond residential projects, the demands of corporate spaces and be privileged to collaborate with specialists in different areas and nationalities.

Interior design was always a passion that proved to be stronger than architecture and which I decided to embrace, particularly when I accepted the challenge of being one of the regular decorators for three years on a TV show "Querido Mudei a Casa" on national tv.

Determined to establish my design philosophy according to my vision, work with clients directly and explore other options in the sector, launching my company was a natural progression. So, in 2005 with Celia, we fulfilled a common wish to become co-founders of Spacemakers studio in Lisbon, the city where we lived at the time. *Ana Proença*

I completed my architecture degree in Milan, an experience extremely enriching, professionally and personally. My career began in studios based in Italy, Lisboa, Madeira and the Azores, and gained extensive experience in design, construction and detailing.

Years later, a spontaneous meeting with my friend Ana in Madeira and the promise that "one day" we would work together marked the first step of this 19-year journey.

Over these years we have developed many different types of architecture and interior projects, with clients and brands of different nationalities. Our most recent project is the Hilton Hotel Azores, S. Miguel Island, and one of the most challenging projects was in Moscow, Russia, for the FIFA World Cup, in 2018. Although we have large-scale projects, we identify with smaller ones, such as residential where we achieve the most personalised spaces. *Celia Mestre*

What type of projects do you take on?
Our team is made up of specialists in architecture and interior design, which allows us to work together with the client from scratch right through to the final stage of decorating private clients' homes, as well as commercial projects, offices, including hotels. *AP*

What is the added value of a comprehensive interior project?
A turnkey interior design project is an asset for those who desire to have a project adjusted to their needs without any worry.

We have a personal approach; we believe that being present and controlling the entire process is essential for everything to run smoothly, from the creative project to its implementation. With our team, the client has someone involved and responsible, ensuring that the budget and deadline are respected. *CM*

What is your team's USP?
We believe that one of Spacemakers' strengths is that it is based on architecture and the experience of interior architecture, both as a project and as technical support.







Spacemakers is an all-female team. At first it wasn't deliberate, but over the years it's become our thing. Empathy, the ability to listen, the intuition and a keener sensitivity are all highlights in the female workforce. *AP*

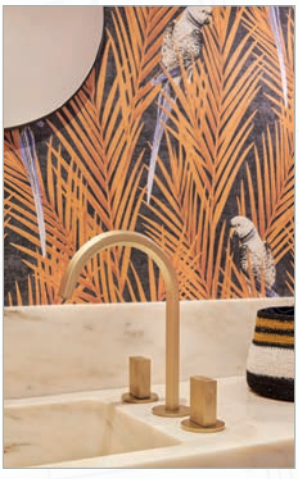
Where do you find inspiration?
Inspiration comes in different ways. The most enriching is travelling, when I love getting lost wandering streets and discovering shops of local brands, tasting food, local wine, observing the way people live their daily lives in cities, which say a lot about the characteristics of a place. I have a particular "craze" for peeking into the bathrooms of the nicest restaurants; when



"Spacemakers is an all-female team. At first it wasn't deliberate, but over the years it's become our thing."

they are well designed, they are spaces that can surprise you! But I also get inspired everyday by art, music, films, my home and my daughter. I think the important thing is to be aware of your surroundings and keep a curious mind. *AP*

Inspiration can come to me at any time and it's a very personal experience. Sometimes inspiration comes from the simplest things in my everyday life. The feeling with which I absorb my surroundings, trips I take, books I read, family and friends define my personality and the way I find my inspiration. I always try to stay up to date with the latest trends, visiting fairs and sharing experiences with colleagues



is essential. The speed at which technologies change, the evolution of materials and the constant appearance of new brands force me to always be up to date. *CM*

Point out factors that add value to interior spaces?
Distribute and play with different lighting in the space, such as lamps of different size, pendant lights, wall lights with dimmable options create focal points and circles of warmth.

Art possesses a plasticity and energy that instils soul and makes environments charismatic, with their own identity; an eye-catching element in the interiors of a contemporary home, a corporate space or hotel.

Reflective surfaces are magic that transform a tight space, creates a sense of infinity and opens up the room into light and depth. Use large mirrors but also metal or polished stone wall panelling. *AP*

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How Plants Make Your Home and Office a Better Place

João Cardoso da Silva of Bioma says the presence of plants in indoor environments has been a growing trend in both homes and businesses.

Why do plants make a significant difference in the quality of life at home and at work?

Aesthetic and Psychological Benefits
Plants add natural beauty to environments, making them more welcoming and inviting. The variety of colours and shapes of foliage and flowers can complement any style of decoration. Beyond aesthetics, studies show that the presence of plants can have a positive impact on mental health, helping to reduce stress, improve mood and enhance overall well-being.

Improving Air Quality
One of the most well-known benefits of plants is their ability to purify the air. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, contributing to a healthier environment. Some species, such as the snake plant and peace lily, are particularly effective at removing air toxins like formaldehyde and benzene. This is especially important in urban areas, where air quality can be compromised.

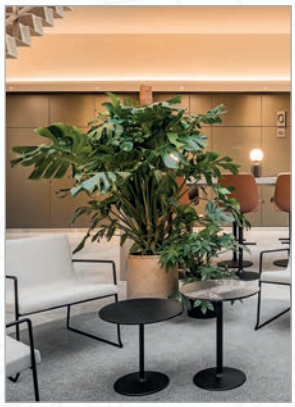
Found in household products like furniture, cleaning supplies and building materials, formaldehyde is a common indoor pollutant. Prolonged exposure can cause respiratory issues, skin irritation, and it has been linked to certain cancers. Plants such as the snake plant, spider plant, and Boston fern can significantly reduce formaldehyde levels, making indoor air safer to breathe.

Benzene is a volatile organic compound present in materials such as paints, glues and detergents. Exposure to benzene can lead to headaches, dizziness and long-term effects like bone marrow diseases. Plants like the peace lily, English ivy and dracaena are effective in removing benzene from the air, contributing to a healthier indoor environment.

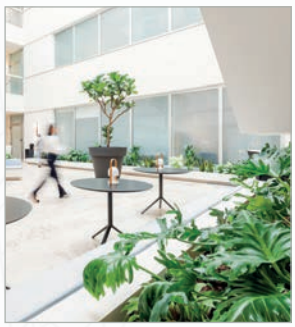
Boosting Productivity
For businesses, including plants in the workplace can lead to a significant increase in productivity. Research indicates that employees in offices with plants are more focused, experience lower levels of anxiety and report higher job satisfaction. The presence of plants can also reduce symptoms of fatigue and increase creativity.

Contacting Us for a Plant Project
At Bioma plants, we are experts in designing custom plant projects for both homes and businesses. Our services include 3D project designs and plant selection based on the specific characteristics and needs of the location, ensuring that they adapt perfectly, remain resilient and grow healthy. If you are interested in transforming your space with the beauty and benefits of plants, please contact us at info@biomaplants.pt. You can also scan the QR code on this page to be directed to our online shop"s contact form.

Incorporating plants in homes and workplaces goes beyond aesthetics. They bring tangible benefits to health, well-being and productivity. Whether through a vertical garden, decorative pots, or biophilic design projects, plants can transform any space into a better place to live and work. Consider adding a touch of green to your environment and enjoy the numerous advantages that plants have to offer.



> "More than mere decorative elements, plants offer a host of benefits that transform any space into a more pleasant and healthy place."





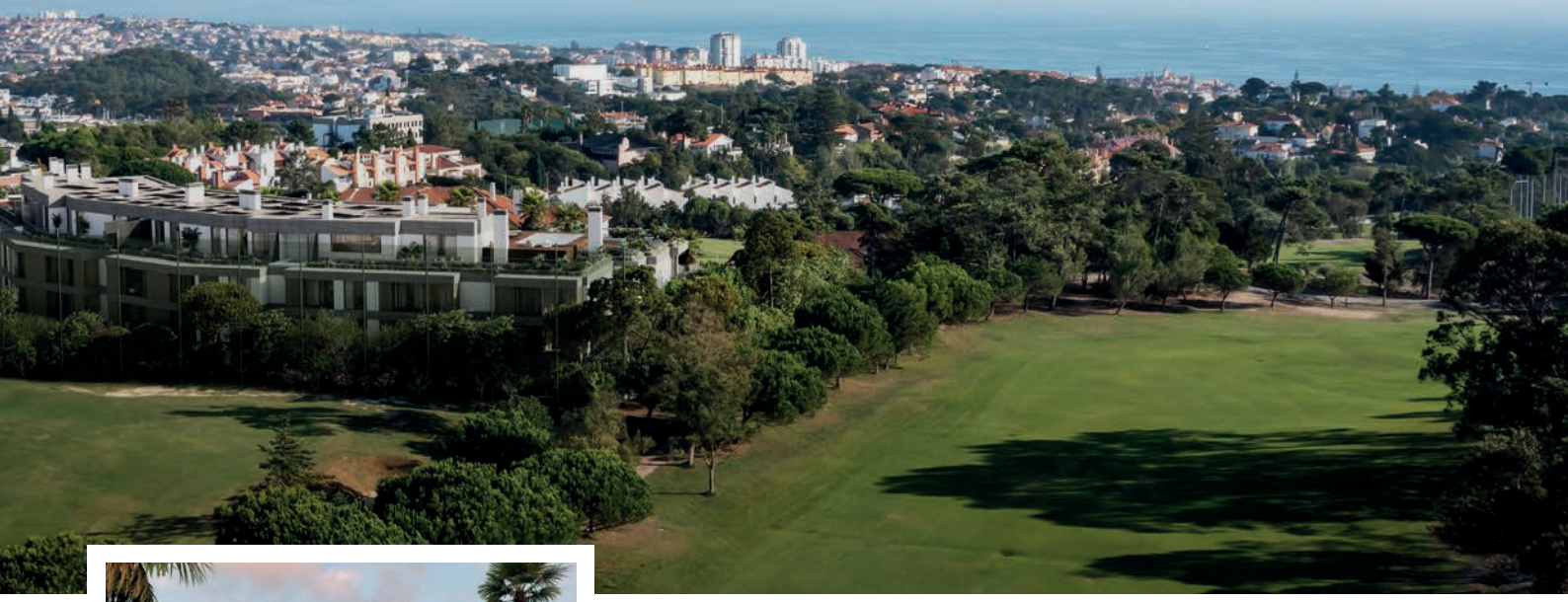
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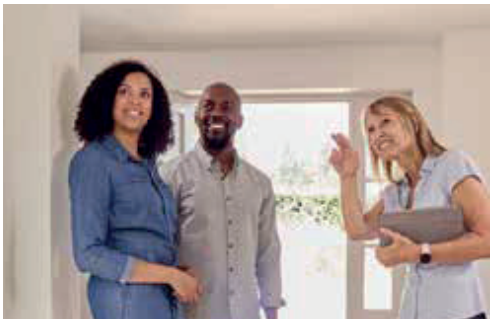
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Standing Tall

WHEREVER meets Erika de Carvalho from Casa Alta Design, Portugal's turnkey interior design company for international clients.

Can you share the story of Casa Alta Design?
After years working as an interior designer in cities such as London, Lisbon, Seoul, Delhi, Hong Kong, Rio, I took the leap and founded Casa Alta Design. I firmly believe that interior design is a science centred on human needs and a key element in all projects. This belief resonated with many people, and I feel humbled and happy to be celebrating our 10th anniversary having completed over a hundred projects in Portugal, Brasil and the UK.

Any highlights over the last decade?
One of the highlights of the past decade was a penthouse refurbishment project with an all-woman team of interior designers, architects, contractors, and the client. This empowering and rare experience in the building industry remains cherished. Another accomplishment was expanding our services through collaborations in Portugal and the UK, enabling a comprehensive turnkey service covering all project stages.

Any particular projects that stand out?
Working on Elis Regina's home was a special moment. Our design concept, inspired by bossa nova and tropical forests, resulted in a colourful, fun, and functional house for the new owners. In another project, refurbishing a house for British clients in Cascais during Covid lockdowns and Brexit we faced new challenges. Despite supply and logistic hurdles, we overcame them and set a benchmark for future projects with the new processes we created.

Tell us more about the specific services you offer - your USP - like bespoke carpentry to art curation?
To enhance our clients' experience, we restrict the number of new projects we undertake each quarter. By doing so, our clients' have our undivided attention ensuring exceptional results. With our profound understanding of Portugal, we have curated an exclusive network of suppliers, skilled artisans, and contractors. Moreover, we have expanded our services to include customized carpentry and art curation services, providing a tailored experience.

Since Casa Alta was created have you noticed a change in the expat market?
Until the curb on short term rental licenses on main cities and the shift on golden visa rules, we were designing many investment rental properties in Lisbon, Cascais and Porto. After these changes, we saw a shift on the market towards higher value homes and businesses for digital nomads and high net worth individuals investing in Portugal due to its amazing lifestyle and financial benefits.

CASA ALTA
INTERIOR • DESIGN



Is Casa Alta tailored to expat needs? How?
All our services have been developed with the international clientele in mind. We know first-hand (as we have collectively moved to several countries) how settling in a new country or having to supervise something remotely can be a difficult experience. With this in mind, all our processes are very transparent and online enabling our clients to follow the progress of their projects wherever they are.

> "All our services have been developed with an international clientele in mind."



When working on interior design, where do you source your furniture and materials?
We prioritise sustainability by working with local brands and manufacturers. In Portugal, our projects feature a huge array of the best Portuguese and Spanish furniture and materials as well as bespoke handmade designs by Casa Alta Design.



What's your 'design motto'?
function, personality, emotion

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VILAMOURA

VILAMOURA'S NEW LEASE OF LIFE

NEW EXCITING PLANS AND PROJECTS ARE SET TO MAKE IT AN EVEN MORE EXTRAORDINARY PLACE IN THE ALGARVE TO VISIT, LIVE AND INVEST IN.

From new sport and leisure facilities to tourist and residential properties in diverse typologies, sizes and prices, there will be an abundance of brand-new amenities to supplement the destination's beautiful landscape of sandy beaches and clear waters. The epitome of resort lifestyle – from doing different things every day, to the luxury of doing absolutely nothing in sunny Vilamoura. An award-winning Marina, endless beaches, five renowned golf courses, hotels, world-class sport facilities, in addition to high-quality education and health facilities, are some of the features that only Vilamoura can offer.

Following a recent rebrand, *Vilamoura master destination planner has recently started the construction of a new marina that's an addition to what's already Portugal's largest and most awarded marina. Three pontoons with 68 berths will be installed, all equipped with the latest technology to provide first-class facilities, sustainability and user comfort. All the new berths will be specifically designed for large boats, between 20 and 40 metres, in order to respond to the fast-growing trend in this sector and to strengthen the destination's capacity to attract a high net-worth demographic.

Nothing about Vilamoura is obvious or plain and no two days are alike here. You can come for a few days, a few weeks or stay forever. The moment you set foot in Vilamoura you will not want to leave. The truth is during the summer you have golden sands and clear waters, and during the winter this sun-soaked coast is never too cold for a jog or too harsh for water sports. Vilamoura also boasts an Environmental Park — the place to enjoy outdoor living, take your kids biking, have a long walk, surrounded by a vast and unique wildlife.

The master developer is launching a vast variety of new residential and touristic projects. Whether you're by yourself, a couple or a family, there is a home for you in Vilamoura. From Villas to Townhouses, Apartments, Penthouses or even plots to build your home from scratch, the offer is wider and broadening each year. The recent additions to Real Estate projects are The Nine, Natura Village or Terracota apartments. All built with sustainability and highest quality in mind, attracting more and more buyers to make Vilamoura a permanent residency. And in order to cater for the growing residential community, there is a brand new offering of events at hand ranging from yoga classes at the nature park to creative workshops at the Cerro da Vila museum.



"FROM VILLAS TO TOWNHOUSES, APARTMENTS, PENTHOUSES OR EVEN PLOTS TO BUILD YOUR HOME FROM SCRATCH, THE OFFER IS WIDER AND BROADENING EACH YEAR."

Vilamoura is evolving, turning into something even more extraordinary, uniquely combining the comfort of a chic resort with the convenience of having everything at arm's length.

Learn more at www.vilamoura.pt



My Bica

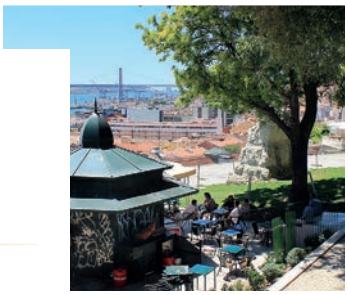
Miles Edlmann is a viticulturist and winemaker who settled in Lisbon in 2018. He runs a premier wine tasting masterclass. **@onehourwine**

After living in remote parts of the country running vineyards for far too many years, I wanted to be immersed in Lisbon life, close to the city centre. The property market was crazy, even then and we ended up buying the flat having only seen it by torchlight as the electricity had been cut off. What sealed the deal was the three-minute walk to the breathtaking Miradouro de Santa Catarina. We put in an offer over an imperial, watching the sunset over the Tagus. The flat has probably appreciated by 30% since then – not a bad return!

Bica is a very friendly neighbourhood. Our street gets together on the steps for an open air grilled sardine-fest at Santo António, but a lot of the area is being swallowed up by short term rentals. On the plus side, we have free parking for residents right here in the centre of Lisbon.

What we hadn't realised when we bought the flat was that we live just off the most photographed street in Portugal, the Elevador da Bica, and have to fight our way through throngs of selfie-taking tourists to get to the nearest shop. Sadly, many of our local stores are closing down, like our brilliant local butcher, while souvenir shops multiply as do the ghastly minimarkets stuffed to the gills with wheely-cased foreign teenagers buying beer, pasta and orange juice.









Superfrutas do Calhariz has fantastic fresh fruit and vegetables, a deli counter and basic staples. Regular customers always find a free bunch of coriander put into their shopping bags. If I need to buy bread I stop off at Chiado Caffe, where I might also need a small beer to keep myself hydrated. Also the laços de mel at Pastelaria Orion at the top of the Elevador are to die for.

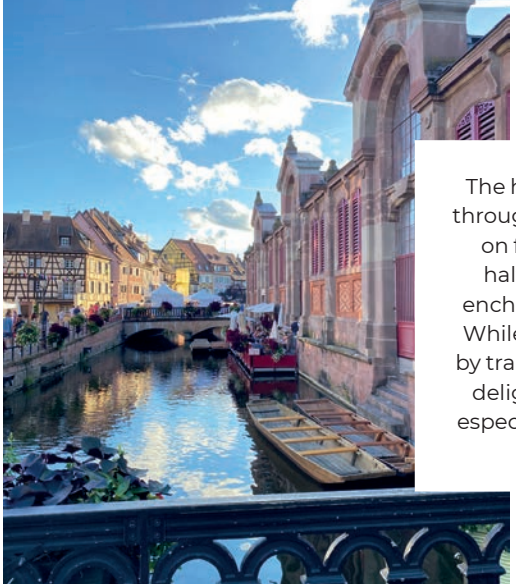


Everywhere is either up a steep hill or down a lot of steps. If you go down, towards Cais do Sodré, there is a great little place for lunch at Popular da Bica. The pratos do dia are inexpensive and very good. It's very much a place for locals – the policeman, the architect who works nearby and the postman who pauses mid-round for a glass of moscatel, all sitting at the same table. A few short steps away is the Time Out market.

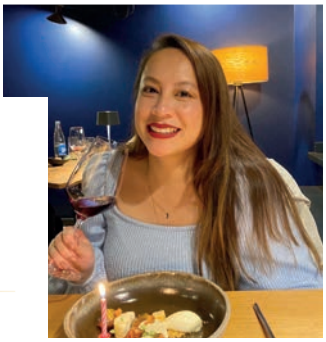


If I'm splashing out I might even consider the magnificent espetada de gambas at Principe do Calhariz, which also does the best ameijoas à bulhão pato in the city, or dinner at my friend Fernando's excellent Lisboa é Linda. His effervescent brother Nuno, behind the bar, will ask you a couple of questions and then invent a bespoke cocktail that you could have never imagined was exactly what you had been dreaming of, but hadn't been able to put into words.

Visiting this region without indulging in its food and wine is unthinkable. Among my cherished activities is savouring a glass of Riesling paired with Tarte flambée at Colmar's covered market near La Petite Venise. The area boasts an array of wines like Muscat, Pinot Noir, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris. Munster cheese, with its pungent aroma, may not appeal to all, but it's a personal favourite. Don't depart without sampling the signature dishes such as sauerkraut, coq au Riesling and spätzle. These culinary delights encapsulate the essence of the region, leaving an unforgettable imprint on your palate and memories.



The highlight of Colmar is strolling through Little Venice and old Colmar on foot. The colourful charming half-timbered houses evoke an enchanting Disney princess movie. While the village is small, exploring by train or boat offers affordable and delightful insights into its history, especially enchanting amid spring's blooming flowers.





My Colmar

LuLu Nguyen is an American adapting to French culture in the picturesque town of Colmar.
@Luenfrance

Originally from Vietnam and raised in California, USA, I pursued my master's in Biomedical Engineering in Paris. However, after falling in love and expecting our first child, my partner and I opted against raising our family there. We found our home in Colmar, France, a charming village in eastern France. Adjusting wasn't easy; leaving family behind in the States was tough, and starting anew in Colmar without friends was challenging. Yet, Colmar's quaint Alsatian houses and cobblestone streets enchanted us, turning our life into a fairytale in this picturesque village.



Leaving Paris after four years, I sought closeness to nature. In Colmar, biking through vineyards at sunset is my cherished escape. It offers both exercise and solitude, a refreshing departure from urban crowds.



Colmar is renowned for its enchanting Christmas markets, a must-see attraction. From late November to New Year's, the town dazzles with festive decorations, wooden chalets, and the aroma of Munster cheese. Coming from California, where such markets are rare, I found myself wandering the old town daily, indulging in mulled wine and festive shopping. It's truly a highlight of the year, adding magic to the holiday season.



Our cherished routine involves a picnic dinner at Parc du Champ-de-Mars in Colmar. After retrieving our daughter from daycare, my partner and I stroll to the park, relishing the remaining hours of the day. On pleasant days, we gather a picnic blanket, a warm baguette from the nearby bakery and some nibbles, embracing the beautiful weather together. It's a simple joy that enriches our afternoons and strengthens our bond as a family.

PASTEIS DE NATA

Castro





Portugal's most iconic pastry, the pastel de nata, has been perfected by Castro, who specialises in the creation of this national treasure of sweet confectionery. The head pastry chef, Daniel Seixas, has created a more sophisticated and higher quality version with a strong focus on using the best ingredients and supreme artisanal technique. The beautiful Belle Epoque-inspired interiors and quirky window displays found in all three of Castro's restaurants work together to provide a sensory and sophisticated experience in which to enjoy the pastel, along with a coffee, tea, a glass of port wine or even a ginjinha.
@castropasteisdenata

What's Hot in Lisbon

By **Taryn King**, local expat and WHEREVER columnist.





INDIAN BISTRO

Gunpowder

Gunpowder Lisboa offers an unprecedented food experience with its authentic take on Indian cuisine. The restaurant first originated in London by Calcutta-born founder, Harneet Baweja, who was inspired to combine the richness of Indian regional recipes with the abundance of Portuguese fish and seafood. The menu delivers an explosion of intense flavours to the palate and the location in Chiado with its Indian bistro design provides a vibrant atmosphere to enjoy the feast of flavours on offer.
@gunpowder_lisboa



GASTRO WINE BAR

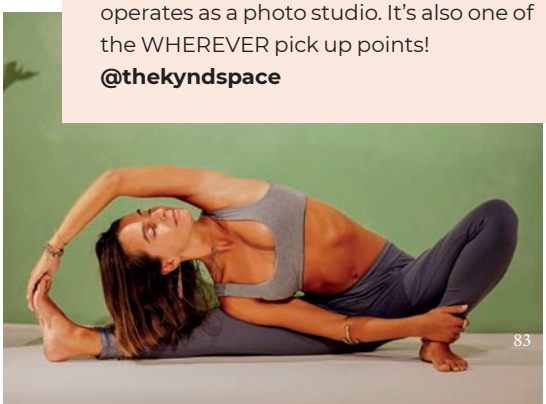
CAV 86

CAV 86 is a laid-back and trendy gastro and wine bar located in the lively hub between Cais do Sodré and Santos. The concept focuses on faster service, smaller dishes to share, wine by the glass and classic cocktails. The cuisine is an eclectic combination of Brazilian, French, and Portuguese influence and the carefully curated wine list is dedicated to small, and mostly organic Portuguese producers. The bar showcases local art and music, by organising artist residencies, in which the walls are taken over by young talents.
@cav86lisboa

WELLNESS SANCTUARY

The Kynd Space

The Kynd Space is a wellness studio which radiates kindness from every aspect – from the sense of community which is prioritised to the aesthetics of the design with its earthy colours and Moroccan touches. The studio offers a diverse range of workout classes including yoga, pilates, barre, dance and HIIT, and classes are tailored to all levels with music as a guide. The treatment room called The Wellnest is home to a handful of holistic experts who offer a range of massages and kinesiology. The Space also hosts workshops, private celebrations and operates as a photo studio. It's also one of the WHEREVER pick up points!
@thekyndspace



Contact us with your news! @wherevermags.com

AMILLION CLINIC

Founded by CEO and Director Amelia Szewczyk in 2020, we are a premier destination for cutting-edge anti-aging and aesthetic treatments in Portugal, with state-of-the-art facilities in both Lisbon and Vilamoura. Amelia Szewczyk is a specialist in anti-aging, leads the clinic with a commitment to incorporating the latest trends, techniques, and products in the field of aesthetics.



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THE KABUKI CONCEPT

Taryn King checks out the hotspot where the elegance of Japanese Cuisine meets Mediterranean flavour.



KABUKI LISBOA

Kabuki Lisboa is a fine dining restaurant that combines the sophistication of Japanese cuisine with the taste of the Mediterranean.

Located in the renowned Galerias Ritz at the Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon, Kabuki Lisboa was the first of the group's ventures outside Spain. Within months of opening, the restaurant won its first Michelin star. The space is divided into three distinct environments across three floors - Experience, Kikubari and the Main Room. Kabuki Experience, where lunches are served, is located on the top floor, and boasts a gorgeous view overlooking Parque Eduardo VII, with lots of natural light. Kikubari Bar offers a cosy, welcoming atmosphere to enjoy the unique cocktail menu, wine by the glass, Japanese whisky and mezcal. Kabuki Main Room seats 60 and is exclusively for dinner. The room features a sushi bar with eight seats, offering a more immersive experience to watch the chefs in action. Minimalism and simplicity are inherent in all aspects of the design of Kabuki, in keeping with Japanese philosophy. This gives a sense of sophistication, harmony and even a little mystery to the restaurant.

The cuisine is elegant and distinctly Japanese, but the Mediterranean flavours burst through to give the dishes a unique Portuguese feeling. The menu, which features à la carte options and tasting menus, is curated by Chef Sebastião Coutinho, and changes regularly to accommodate seasonal ingredients. Chef Sebastião, who has been at Kabuki since its start, is a master in sushi, having worked in many sushi restaurants in Portugal and abroad. It is sushi then, that takes centre stage in the à la carte menu with the highest quality and freshest fish. However, the menu is diverse and wide-ranging, also featuring tempuras and meats, with the Gyu-Take Nabe option, in which the diner "cooks" their own dish at the table, in a sukiyaki broth to which they add mushrooms and wagyu.



Kabuki tasting menus are a journey. They always start with a set of amuse-bouche bites brought in a bento box, the traditional Japanese lunch boxes. Then continuing with Sashimi Moriawase (whitefish, salmon and tuna) and Usuzukuri, which includes a version of the Catalan Pa Amb Tomàquet made with fatty tuna, toasted bread and tomato, Ponzu, with whitefish, and Scarlet Prawn Rice. There is also a vegan option. The menus all end with Mochi, the traditional Japanese sweet, done with a pastéis de nata filling.

"WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF THE RAW MATERIALS, EACH DISH IS CAREFULLY PREPARED TO EXPRESS THE PURITY AND AUTHENTICITY OF ITS FLAVOURS."



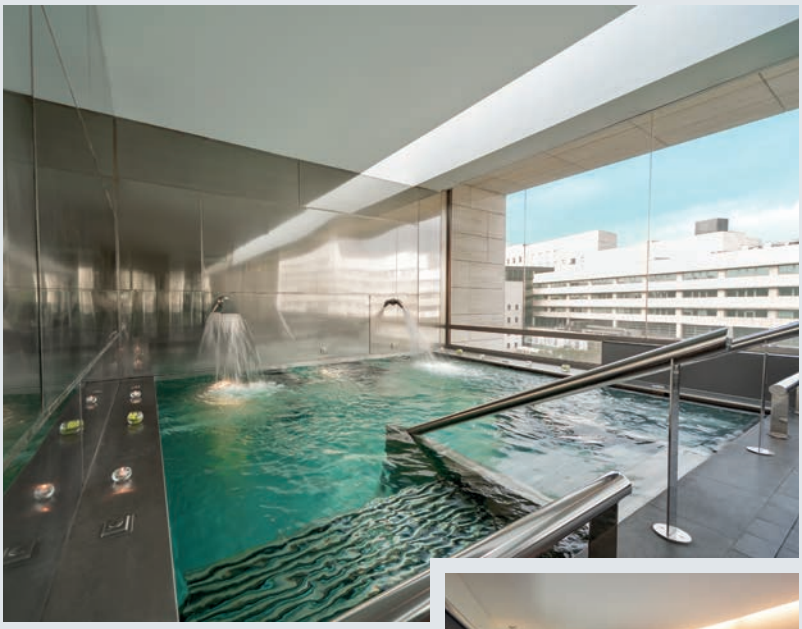


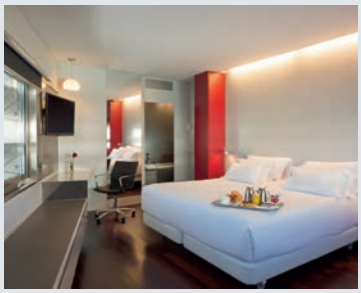
The Kabuki wine cellar is truly unique and includes a magnificent selection with over 130 references from small producers, spanning champagnes, whites and reds from Burgundy, and of course the Japanese sakes. The fusion between the drinks, cuisine and atmosphere at Kabuki's has been designed to create a unique multisensory gastronomy experience.

Follow Kabuki **@kabuki_lisboa**

A Weekend in Barcelona

WHEREVER takes a quick trip to the capital of Catalonia.





Where to Stay

Check into NH Collection Barcelona Constanza, to be far away enough from the touristy centre but still within easy reach of everything. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, equipped with all the amenities you'd expect, and staff are friendly and helpful. Breakfast is hard to find but great once you make it! Different counters offer plenty of options from sweet to savoury, eggs and pancakes and great iberian ham. There's even a kids 'sweet' trolley. It's also really conveniently located next to the L'Illa Diagonal mall, if you need to do a spot of shopping or indeed pop to the impressive food court.

nh-hotels.com



What to see

No trip to Barelona is complete without marvelling at the architectural wonder of Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Família and Park Güell, both iconic landmarks that define the cityscape. Don't miss the vibrant atmosphere of La Rambla, a bustling boulevard lined with street performers and markets, just the spot to pick up some churros or some sweet nougat. Another must? Get lost in the Gothic Quarter's narrow winding streets and admire the mediaeval buildings, and stop for a drink in the Plaça Reial.



Where to Eat

So many places to eat but beware of the tourist traps! Try Tickets, the brainchild of chef Ferran Adrià, famous for its innovative tapas and vibrant atmosphere. Michelin-starred Disfrutar is the place to go for fancy modern Catalan cuisine, with heaps of creativity and seasonal flavours. Can Culleretes, open since 1786, is the place for a taste of tradition with authentic Catalan dishes served in a charming, historic setting.

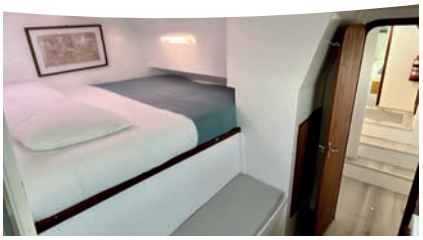
Where to Shop

If budget is no issue, head to Passeig de Gràcia, home to luxury boutiques such as Gucci, Chanel and Louis Vuitton. Stroll through Portal de l'Àngel for popular high street brands like Zara and H&M. La Roca Village is home to designer outlets like Prada and Burberry, while El Born district is the place for an eclectic mix of artisanal shops and local designers.



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SAND DUNES, SILENCE AND SKY

Theresa Devereux takes a two night desert camp trek in the UAE to find the heart of the Arabian Desert.

I am hanging on for dear life in the back seat of the four-wheel drive as we hurtle across the sandy, undulating planes of the Liwa desert on the southern end of Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. The car takes a dramatic turn and our driver pauses for a second as the car teeters on a near-vertical slope as he navigates the descent down a huge sand dune. I am terrified, not that I lacked faith in our emirate friend and driver to whom this desert is home. I can see he is an expert as he skilfully negotiates the twists and turns and steep descents with ease and chats happily to my friend, in the front. He looks surprised when he catches a glimpse of my panicked expression in the rear mirror. "Would you like me to slow down?" he asks kindly.



We are on the first stage of a two-night desert camp and trek and we are driving on the northern edge of the Rub' al Khali, otherwise known as the empty quarter. It is the largest area of continuous sand in the world, approximately 1,000km long and 500km wide, and covers almost the entire Southern Arabian Peninsula, stretching into Saudi Arabia on the west, the UAE on the north and to a lesser extent, Yemen in the south and Oman in the east. The heart of the Arabian desert, it is now largely uninhabited but was once home to the nomadic Bedouin tribes. It was also crossed twice by the famous British explorer, Wilfred Thesiger, who wrote about his epic journeys in his book 'Arabian Sands'.

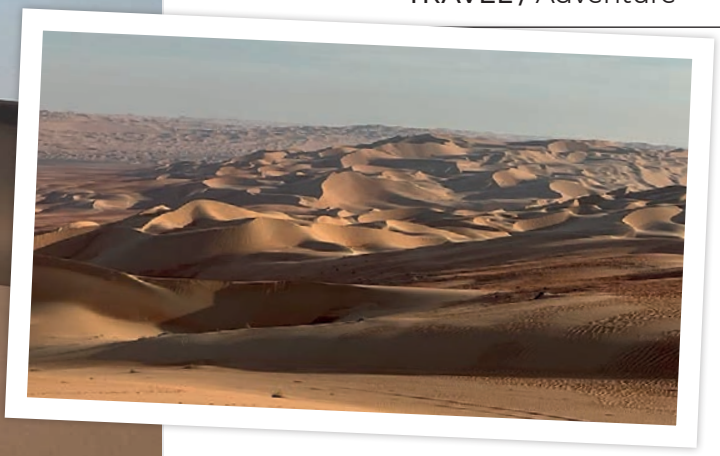
Ok, so our trip was not exactly Thesiger, who, with his Bedouin companions, crossed this inhospitable terrain in the late 1940's, on foot and camel, often thirsty and hungry while being pursued by raiding parties intent on killing him. But it was enough of a taste to have huge admiration for the man and the Bedouin tribes who survived on this land for centuries.

Our friend drops us off at a beautiful spot he knew about an hour's drive into the desert near the Saudi Arabian border. He will be back to check on us and I watch his Land Rover disappear out of sight in a trail of dust over a sand dune. It is only later that my anxiety over the "what ifs" set in. At this moment, I am too excited to be here to care about anything.

We set up camp on a wide, flat-bottomed bowl where we will be protected from the wind. There are risks and you need to know







"IT IS ONLY LATER THAT MY ANXIETY OVER THE "WHAT IFS" SET IN. AT THIS MOMENT, I AM TOO EXCITED TO BE HERE TO CARE ABOUT ANYTHING."

where it is safest to camp in the sand dunes. To get mobile reception you have to climb to the top of the dunes. I eye the top rim of the dune that half encircles our tiny camp. From my angle the slip face is about 10 to 15 metres high and looks almost vertical. I wasn't sure if I could manage to get up there but it wasn't as hard as it looked, a bit like walking up a ski slope, apart from the final bit where I had to haul myself up. Even that, I had mastered by the end of the two days, using walking sticks and a good lean forward.

The view from the top was utterly, utterly beautiful. A sea of endless rolling, orange sand dunes in every direction as far as the eye can see. Angular edges, pointed and rounded mounds of sand, layer upon layer, in both shadow and light as a white orange sun, a burning globe descends across the sky casting shadows beneath white and yellow rays. The top half of the picture, a beautiful blue, the bottom half, a sparkling golden orange, and way, away in the distance, a few twinkling lights of civilization. On one side, carved along the desert floor, there was an enormously wide, flat, meandering plain, interrupted at intervals by lakes of silver, glinting in the sun. "Sabkhas" says my travelling companion who has camped and trekked here many times, "Dried out salt flats" she explains. I can see three; massive crevices, tracking each other in succession.



"I AM IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE" I SHOUT EXCITEDLY. "IT IS AMAZING. YOU HAVE TO COME."

Camping is allowed in Abu Dhabi, but it's essential to plan ahead, prioritise safety, adhere to local regulations, respect the environment and follow current guidelines. If you don't have the experience and equipment, hotels, glamping locations and tour operators offer adventures and overnight stays in the desert.

visitabudhabi.ae
for "10 of the best camping places in Abu Dhabi", "Off-road desert driving in Abu Dhabi" and "The Abu Dhabi Desert guide."

The next day, we trek out from our camp, walking up and down the dunes for several hours in walking boots and gaiters zipped around our ankles to keep the sand out. We follow the line of the sabkhas in the distance, clinging to the long sharp edges of the sand dunes known as the 'shoulder'. You expect the sand to crumble here, under your feet, but it doesn't, it is where the sand is at its hardest and better to walk on. It would be so easy to get lost but we have a GPS and leave landmarks at various points along the way. On our way back, we follow the fresh imprints our footsteps made in the sand on the way out. It is beautiful and endless and harsh, but not too harsh and our traditional Arab scarves, known in the Middle East as the shemagh, ghutrah or keffiyeh, shield us from the hot sun and wind. The scarf is made from cotton and it is the perfect thickness, size and texture for the task, and I found it incredibly versatile, light weight and easily transportable.

We are back at the camp before dusk and I call my family from the top of the steep sand dune. "I am in the middle of nowhere" I shout excitedly. "It is amazing. You have to come." And the sun sinks below the desert floor and the night sky sweeps in without me even realising it, like a deep, dark blue blanket. The top half of the picture goes black and so does the bottom half apart from the flickering light of the fire we have made out of logs in some scooped-out sand. And later on, from my sleeping bag, lying beside my friend and the dying embers of the fire, woolly hats and socks on, because, yes, it really can get cold in the desert at night, I watch the ocean of twinkling stars above and the moon peeping out from behind a dune and make its way, very slowly, across the night sky, casting an almost celestial light that grows in intensity as the night progresses. It is so quiet. It is mesmerizingly beautiful, and a line from Thesiger's 'Arabian nights' comes to mind.

"It was very still," he wrote, "with the silence which we have driven from our world."

Escape to the Chateau

Discover the Occitanie region of southern France for a break blending royal accommodation, glorious gastronomy and activities aplenty.

CHECK IN

Château Capitoul, a quaint château fully refurbished in 2020, has heaps of accommodation options available, from cosy, romantic suites under the eaves complete with standalone bathtub and views stretching across the water, to vast luxurious three or four bedrooms villas where you'll feel right at home.

A sleek decor, all soothing Mochas and French Greys, stunning Travertine stone flooring throughout and the highest spec finish makes the family-friendly, self-catering villa a great idea.

With all the essentials, from the Nespresso to the dishwasher, and even a washing machine, not to mention the usual XL flatscreen to cast to, the house is ultra comfortable. You'll never want to leave! Bathrooms are swanky, beds are plush and everything is just right. But most of all, the views over the terrace to the vineyards and the lagoon are breathtaking. The perfect landscape to throw the curtains open to every morning! And, it's so quiet, the nights are truly restful.





EXPLORE THE CHÂTEAU

Whether you want to take the bikes out for a day (with a tasty picnic including sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit and even mini madeleines) or take a walk around the vines, there are lots of possibilities. A game of tennis? A dip in the beautiful eternity pool? Or, indulge in a visit to the spa in the Château's plush basement, complete with inside pool and relaxing room overlooking the vineyards. Ideal for a relaxing massage, or an early morning invigorating swim.

Wine lovers should also book a wine tasting session in the 'cave' with the lovely Sandra who gives a fascinating insight into the local 'terroir', its history, its unique qualities and an overview of the Languedoc Rousssillon's wine production while focusing on the Bonfils family business. The owners of Château Capitoul also have a dozen other wineries, all with their own stories and specificities. There is even grape juice tasting for the kids, from Chardonnay to Merlot via Cabernet!



"Bathrooms are swanky, beds are plush and everything is just right."

VISIT NARBONNE

With its cobblestone streets and historic edifices, it's a charming stop just a few minutes away from Château Capitoul. Don't miss the bustling market "Halles" dating back to the 19th Century. The vibrant community hotspot where the finest fresh produce is available is the perfect place to prop up a counter and taste the local goodies, from gooey cheeses to tasty charcuterie or fresh oysters.

Another must? The Narbo Via Museum. Delve into the area's rich Roman past. Designed by iconic architect Lord Norman Foster, the museum showcases artefacts spanning from the city's Roman origins to its mediaeval heyday. Among its prized possessions are Roman mosaics, statues, and pottery, offering glimpses into the daily lives of Narbonne's ancient inhabitants. A truly impressive collection and great interactive tools, too. ›





GO TO GRUISSAN

This quaint Mediterranean village, with plenty of rustic charm and stunning beaches where azure waters meet golden sands, not to mention the gleaming 'pink' salt flats, is home to flamingos. Hit the watersports, or wander the village's winding streets, past its whitewashed houses, colourful shutters and blooming bougainvillaea.

Head up the hill to Gruissan Castle, a reminder of its mediaeval past and check the panoramic views from its ancient ramparts. For lunch try La Cambuse du Saunier, especially famous for its seafood platters and cuttlefish cassoulet.



"There is even grape juice tasting for the kids, from Chardonnay to Merlot via Cabernet!"

VISIT LES CARASSES

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E info@thealbatrozcollection.com
W thealbatrozcollection.com

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W www.ajusera.com

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