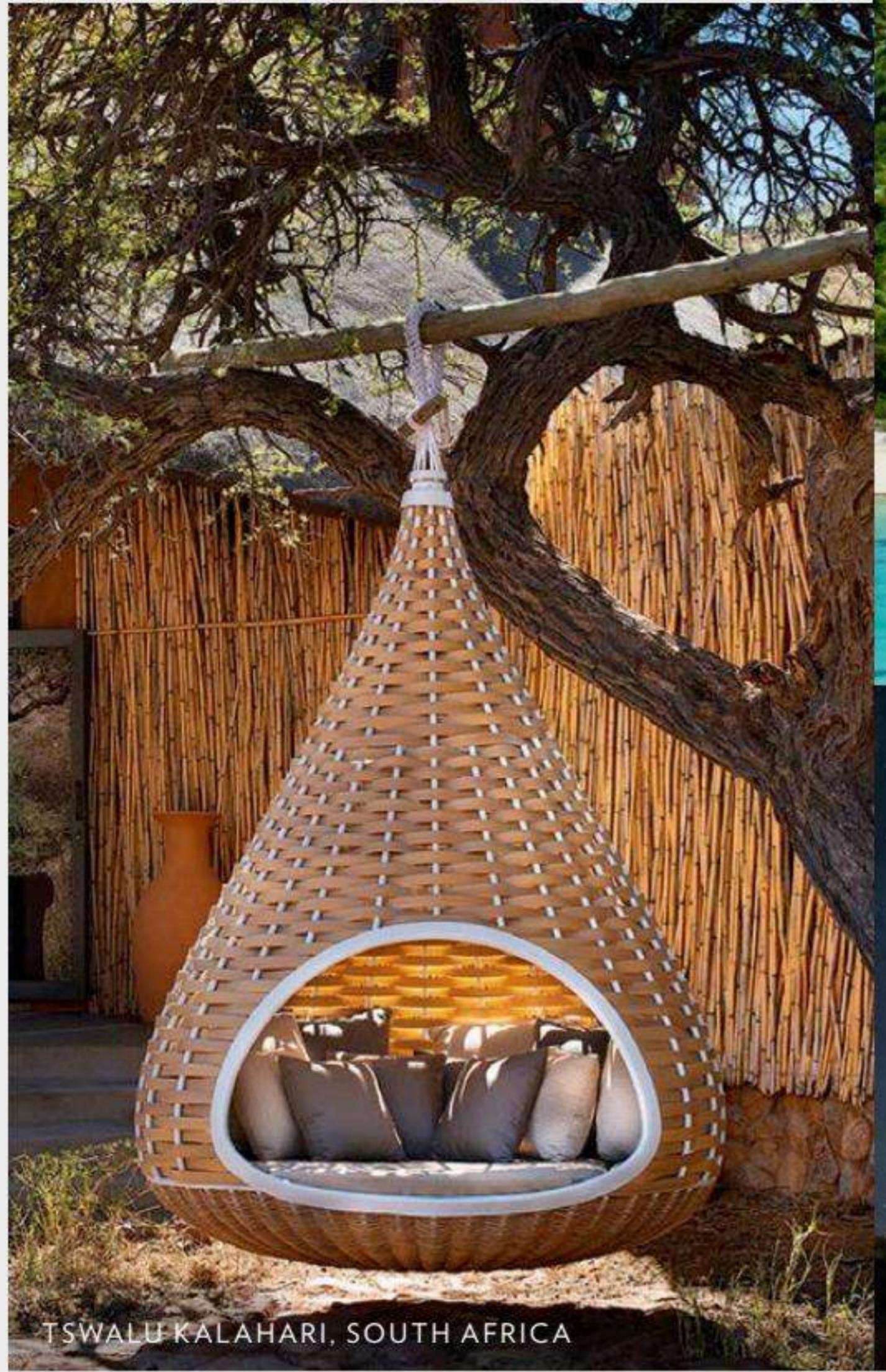




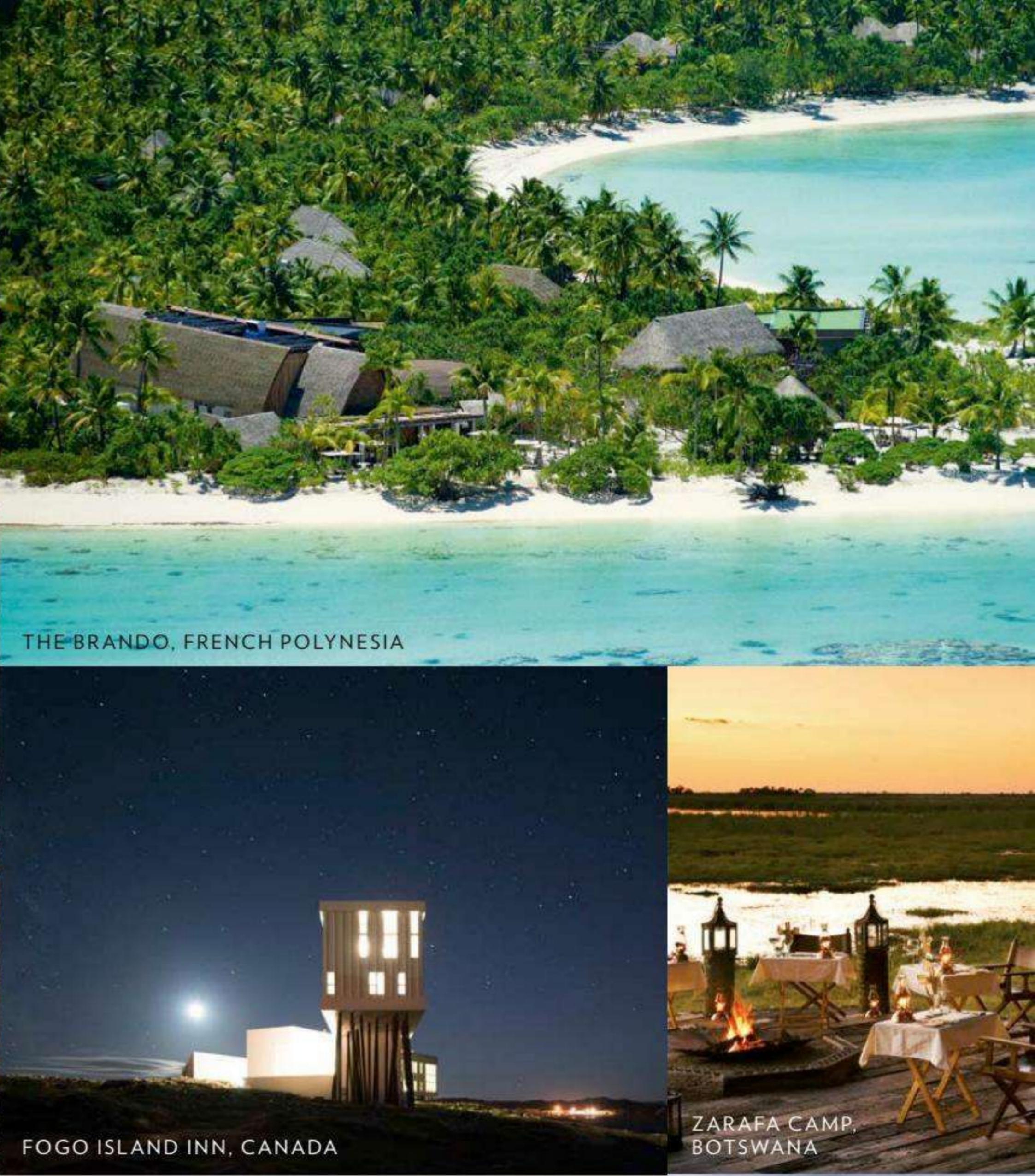
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™





TSWALU KALAHARI, SOUTH AFRICA



THE BRANDO, FRENCH POLYNESIA



FOGO ISLAND INN, CANADA



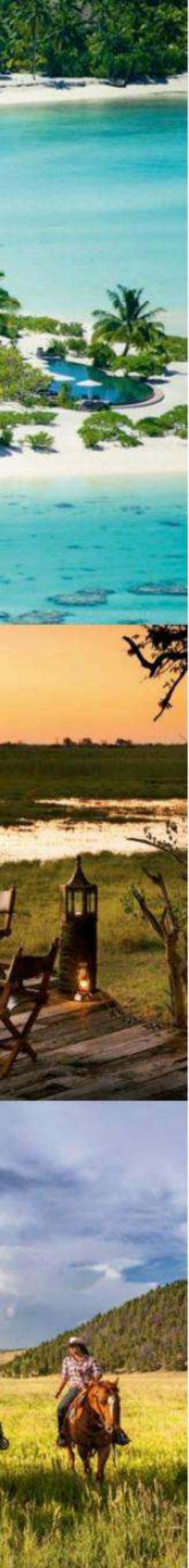
ZARAFÁ CAMP,
BOTSWANA



LONGITUDE 131°, AUSTRALIA



THE RANCH AT
ROCK CREEK,
UNITED STATES



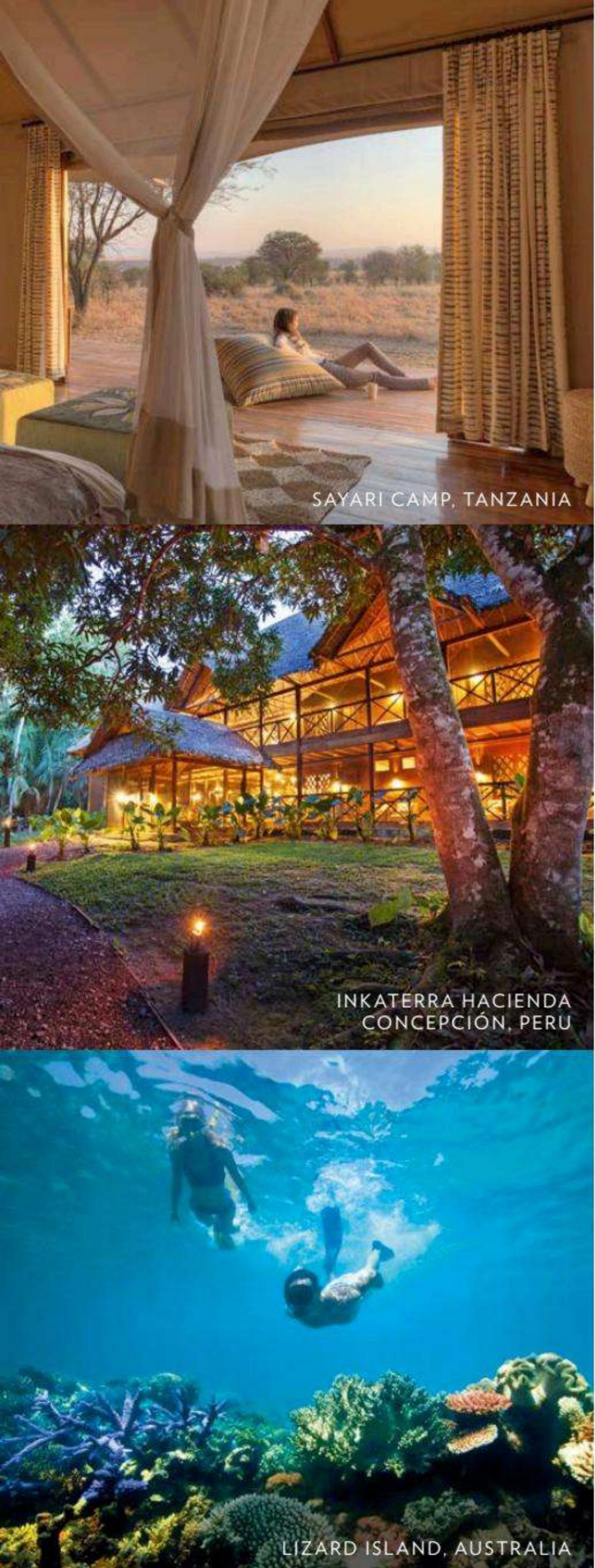
A COLLECTION LIKE NO OTHER

National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World is a collection of handpicked lodges that invite guests to experience the world's most treasured places while helping to protect them for generations to come. Each lodge has made the choice to tread lightly, to celebrate nature rather than conquer it, to support cultural heritage, and to engage with local communities. The lodges we have selected are thatched bungalows and stunning safari tents, historic estates and sustainably built works of ingenuity. Each embodies values National Geographic holds close: authenticity, enrichment, and a commitment to preserving our planet's diversity. The experience they offer is intimate and extraordinary, connecting guests with their destination in a meaningful way.



UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™

Learn more about our growing collection at natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404.



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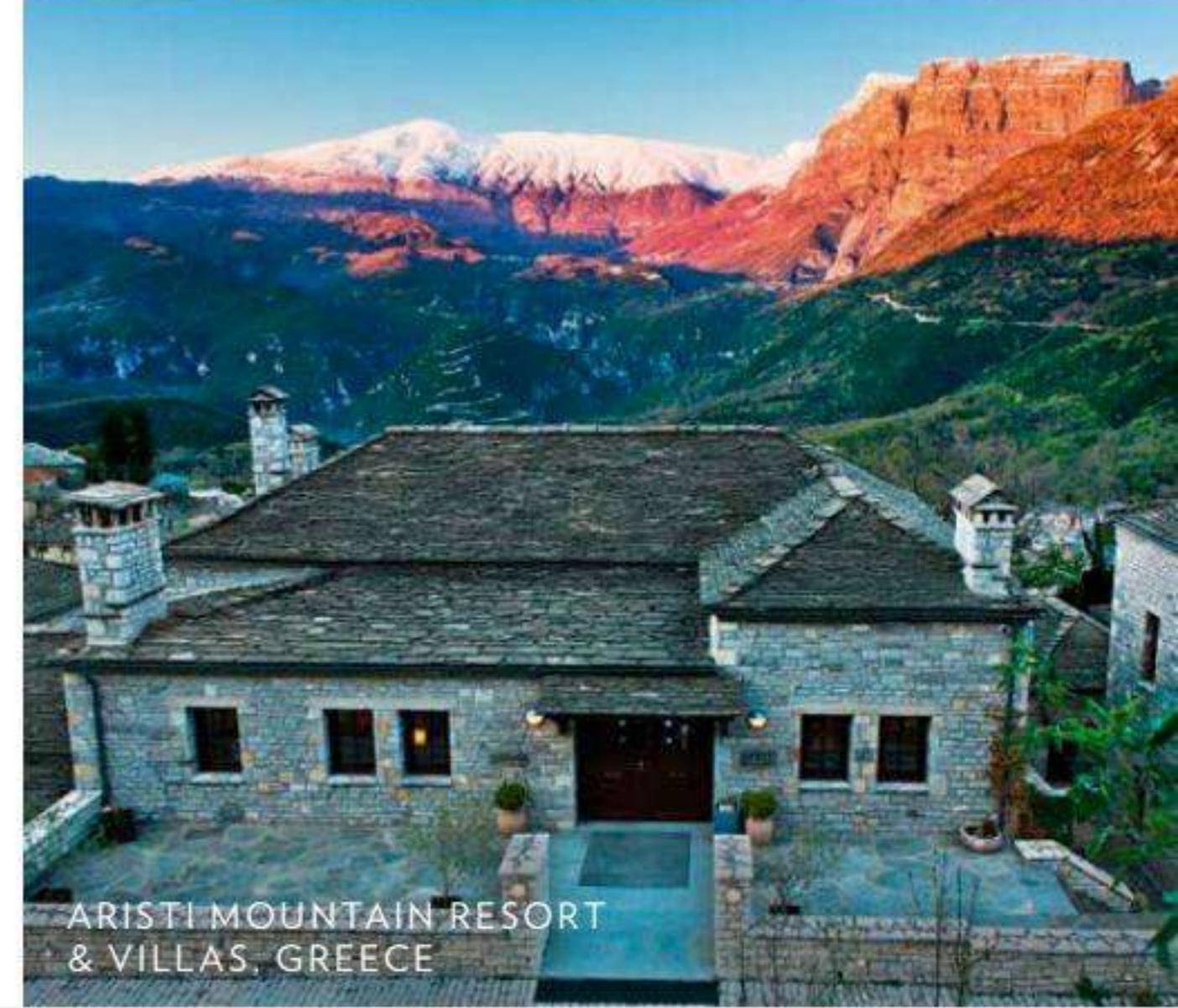
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PETIT ST. VINCENT PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT,
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



MARA PLAINS CAMP, KENYA



ARISTI MOUNTAIN RESORT
& VILLAS, GREECE



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EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE

We are more than a selection of world-class accommodations. We are a collection of rare experiences across the globe, offering guests intimate encounters with parts of the world not many get to know—and the chance to slow down and truly discover them. To stay in one means connecting to a place in a meaningful way, whether you're hiking with a naturalist in an untouched wilderness or getting immersed in local culture on a visit to a family home.

A WELCOME INTO AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE

As leaders in sustainable tourism, our lodges play an integral role in the surrounding community, and are dedicated to protecting local wildlife and habitats. What does this mean for you? Unparalleled access to unspoiled wild places, such as Chile's Atacama Desert or The Seychelles; genuine interactions with local people from Bhutan to Morocco; and peace of mind. After all, by staying at our lodges, you are contributing to tourism's positive impact and helping safeguard our planet for future generations.

JUST FOR OUR GUESTS

Each of our lodges offers a National Geographic Exclusive: a special, complimentary experience just for our guests, whether it's a private nature walk with a scientist or a cooking lesson with a chef. At Grootbos Private Nature Reserve in South Africa, for example, enjoy an intimate meal in an ancient milkwood forest, or go stargazing with an astronomer in Mongolia's Gobi desert at Three Camel Lodge.

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SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE, MALAYSIAN BORNEO



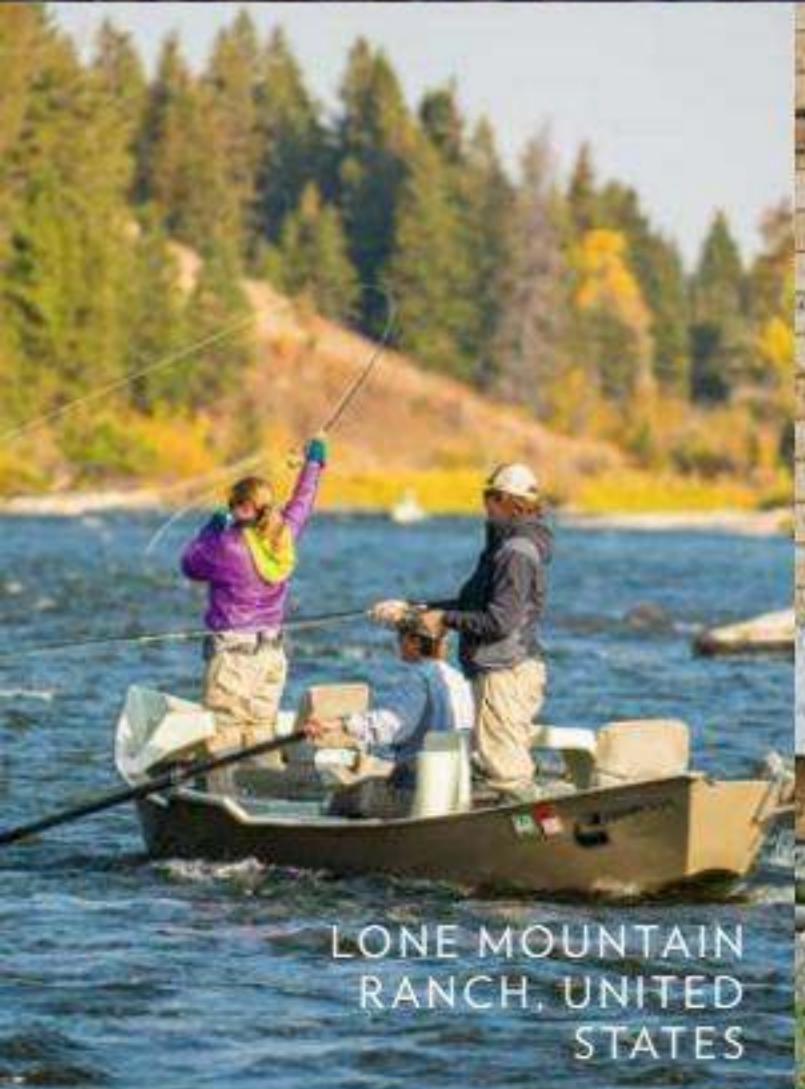
SAYARI CAMP, TANZANIA



FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE, THE SEYCHELLES



TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA, CHILE



LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH, UNITED STATES



CHURCHILL WILD, CANADA



TIAMO RESORT, BAHAMAS



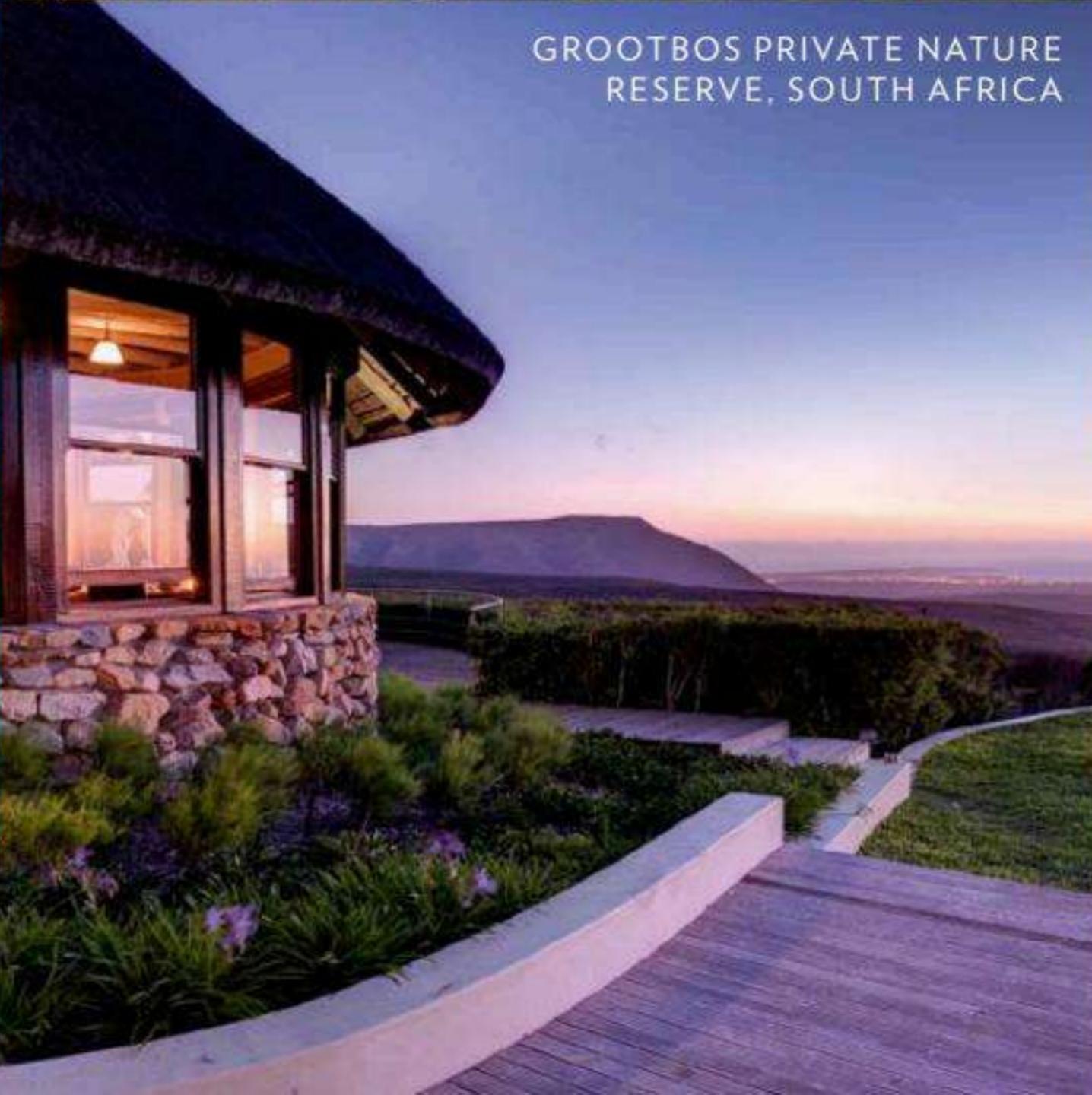
THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY, ZAMBIA



INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL, PERU



LIZARD ISLAND, AUSTRALIA



GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE
RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA



TIERRA ATACAMA
HOTEL & SPA, CHILE



LET NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PLAN YOUR DREAM TRIP

Our travel specialists will work with you to create the experience that suits you, whether it's a few nights' stay at a lodge or a longer itinerary that features one of these properties. We can take care of all your logistics, from booking flights to securing private guides, so that you're free to enjoy your dream trip. All you have to do to get started is pick up the phone or visit our website.

Learn more about our growing collection at natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404.



FOGO ISLAND INN

NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA



The islands off Newfoundland have an independent spirit and a deep-rooted culture, and Fogo Island Inn embodies both. This lodge is not only owned and operated by its community, it was also designed by a local architect to draw out modern elements of age-old outport architecture. The island claims seven seasons—and each one offers the opportunity to try something different. Join up with an islander to learn how to build a boat; go fishing for cod as many generations have before you; forage for wild berries and mushrooms with the kitchen staff; hike coastal trails; cruise out to Iceberg Alley; or simply sit back and listen to the lilt of local music.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 29 unique and individually decorated guest suites
- Activities for each season, from summer bonfires and boat rides to winter sports
- Fully accessible to people with mobility challenges
- Two gentle Newfoundland dogs named Make and Break
- Rooftop terrace with northern European saunas and outdoor hot tubs
- Art gallery featuring internationally acclaimed artists

THINGS TO DO

- Experience traditional stories, songs and recipes, and be sure to sample the beloved figgy duff—a Newfoundland pudding recipe with roots in England.
- Meander through the wilds of Fogo Island, heading out solo or joining a community host.
- Wander bogs and marshes, picking wild berries.
- Gaze at a million stars or enjoy a cocktail chilled by iceberg fragments as you soak in the rooftop hot tubs.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

When one of Canada's oldest rural cultures faced a decline after the collapse of the cod industry, native Newfoundland entrepreneur Zita Cobb stepped in with a solution. Working with the local community, she built a lodge, furnished it with local crafts, and hired islanders to run it and to introduce guests to their way of life. The project has led to a renaissance of local art and a flourishing of the outport community. The traditions that once threatened to vanish are now the island's mainstay.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Delve into the compelling story of the island, exploring its values and resilience with a community host. Hike to a root cellar, forage with a chef, and learn to prepare a seasonal dish.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



CHURCHILL WILD

MANITOBA, CANADA



Churchill Wild celebrates a wilderness very few know: the Arctic tundra. Seal River Heritage Lodge and Nanuk Polar Bear Lodge are two cozy havens on the shores of the Hudson Bay. Each offers a distinct encounter with the Arctic, and guests can choose an adventure package that includes one or both lodges. Seal River lies near an estuary where belugas arrive in the thousands to breed in the summer; Nanuk is close to polar bear denning areas. After days tracking polar bears with naturalists or swimming alongside belugas, both lodges offer a warm retreat, a fireplace, and a fantastic meal—and a chance to see the northern lights.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 16 comfortable rooms with en suite bathrooms
- Children age 8 and older are welcome
- Seal River Heritage Lodge open from July to November; Nanuk open from August to November
- Weather conditions change quickly and unpredictably—expect anything from below freezing to balmy temperatures
- Welcoming lounge area with a large fireplace

THINGS TO DO

- See Arctic wildflowers, find fox dens, hear the “singing” of belugas (in summer) and walk with polar bears.
- Climb into a custom-made Tundra Tracker (at Seal River) or an open-air ‘rhino’ vehicle (at Nanuk) and head out to track polar bears along the Hudson Bay.
- Step outside with your camera and tripod, and watch the mesmerizing northern lights send color waves across the sky.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

When Mike and Jeanne Reimer, the owners of Churchill Wild, drew up plans for these lodges, they sought locations that capitalized on all the magic of the Arctic. The lodges they built are cozy outposts far from everything in a landscape that's wild and fascinating. Keeping environmental impact to a minimum, Churchill Wild is one of the only adventure companies in the world that prefers to approach the wildlife of the Arctic on foot—an intimate, thrilling experience.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. In summer and early fall, go foraging for berries with the lodge chefs and then join them to cook up a delectable dessert. For late fall visits, enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the lodge with the manager.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



NIMMO BAY WILDERNESS RESORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort is the ultimate secret hideaway. Nestled in British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest above sparkling waterways where salmon flash and porpoises leap, it's reached only by helicopter or floatplane. This is a landscape of mountains, fjords, glaciers, and islands, where the wildlife far outnumbers the humans. Salmon fishing, black-bear watching, orca spotting, heli-hiking and open-ocean boating are among the adventures available to guests. Guides, survivalists, artists, and naturalists are on hand to offer fascinating insights into the wildlife, old-growth forests and plants, and culture of the region.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 9 two-bedroom chalets
- Open May through October
- July to September is the warmer, drier season; expect rain forest downpours in June and October
- Large families can rent the entire resort; children age 2 and younger stay free of charge
- Accessible by helicopter or floatplane from Port Hardy

THINGS TO DO

- Go kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling, tubing, wakeboarding, windsurfing, and swimming.
- Spot black and grizzly bears, orcas, white-sided dolphins, and humpback whales on a wildlife cruise; and keep an eye out for eagles and wolves.
- Swoop high into the mountains in your private, piloted helicopter to hike among glaciers, rocky peaks, and alpine lakes.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Nimmo Bay looks like it's been carved from the woodlands: a small collection of beautifully designed wooden chalets that seem to float at the water's edge. Food and wine are sourced nearby, as is the energy—thanks to a waterfall that tumbles 5,000 feet just steps from the lodge. With a fleet of paddleboards, kayaks, helicopters, and boats, guests of all ages and abilities will want to venture far beyond the doorstep. But coming back is a treat as well: bubbling hot tubs await at the foot of that glorious waterfall.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. On a private sunset dinner cruise, glide out of Nimmo Bay to Wells Pass and Mackenzie Sound. As the sun sets over the mountains, spot whales and dolphins and enjoy a memorable meal.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SIWASH LAKE WILDERNESS RESORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



The Cariboo wilderness is a rugged plateau that stretches between the Rockies and the Pacific Coast Ranges. Set on a lake's edge here, amid meadows and pine forests, the intimate Siwash Lake Wilderness Resort is an eco-retreat that invites you to revel in the great outdoors. Some 60 miles of trails await exploration, whether you're hiking or taking part in Siwash's world-class equestrian program, which matches guests with a horse throughout their stay. When out of the saddle, try kayaking or fly-fishing in trout-filled lakes; or practice yoga, archery, or skeet shooting in meadows bright with wildflowers.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 3 safari-style canvas glamping tents, 2 ranch house suites, and a barn loft
- Open June to September
- Children of any age welcome in July and August
- Rodeo-size riding arena
- Trout pond and private lake for fly-fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding
- Spa offering a range of holistic treatments

THINGS TO DO

- Embark on a full-day horseback safari, breaking for a saddlebag lunch atop a mountain bluff.
- Savor gourmet pasture-to-plate cuisine while dining by candlelight in a lakeside meadow.
- Join an angling expert at stunning Crater Lake and try your hand at fly-fishing.
- Set out on a helicopter excursion, soaring over the peaks and valleys of the Cariboo.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The owners of this wilderness lodge are avid naturalists, and fourth-generation ranchers, equestrians, and cowboys. The experience they've created is geared toward full immersion in the beauty of the land, and guests find themselves completely off the grid. With an emphasis on hikes with naturalists, activities on or in the water, and horseback riding, you're free to appreciate the grandeur of British Columbia, in tune with the rhythms of nature.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Forage for ingredients with the lodge chef, then join him in the kitchen to make a salad using what you've picked. Practice fly-casting with an angling expert, or ride horseback on a trail excursion with a guide.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



WINTERLAKE LODGE

ALASKA, UNITED STATES



Fly by seaplane or ski-plane over the Alaska backcountry to Winterlake Lodge, nestled in snowy peaks. Once you've reached this spot, hidden from the world, spend days fly-fishing in wild rivers, scrambling a ridgeline, white-water rafting, or taking walks amid wildflowers. For the real wow factor, fly to a glacier to see dazzling blue pools left by glacial melt, or get even more remote on a guided heli-hiking or heli-skiing excursion to find places no others have explored. Guests in winter can go dog-sledding along the Iditarod Trail—Winterlake is the third stop—and watch for the northern lights in the evenings.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 cabins built from local wood
- Balmy temperatures and sunshine can turn to wind, rain or even a snow flurry in summer; winters are cold and snowy—and the best time to see the northern lights
- Children of all ages welcome
- Helicopter allows access to glacier trekking, skiing, wildlife, river rafting, fishing, and panning for gold
- Daily yoga, cooking classes, and wine tasting

THINGS TO DO

- Kayak or canoe along peaceful Finger Lake, watching for wildlife and numerous bird species on the shore.
- Join a chef in the kitchen to prepare Alaskan cuisine using ingredients foraged, fished, or grown nearby.
- In the winter months, spot the spectacular northern lights and learn to drive your own team of huskies on the snows of the historic Iditarod Trail.
- Relax by the wood-fired stove or soak in the hot tub.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

When Carl and Kirsten Dixon purchased Winterlake, the lodge was operating as a hunting camp—one of many in Alaska. They took a financial risk by ceasing all hunting, and instead made a commitment to fostering sustainable adventure. In doing so, the Dixons became pioneers in their own right, offering an Alaskan wilderness experience free from hunting. During the two decades since, bears, moose, beavers, wolves, loons, swans, and river otters have returned to the area in remarkable numbers.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Rise early to set out with a guide on a private photography excursion before breakfast, capturing wildlife in their morning rituals and the mountains aglow in morning light.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



TUTKA BAY LODGE

ALASKA, UNITED STATES



Near the tip of the Kenai Peninsula, an unspoiled pocket of Alaskan wilderness harbors a secret: a world-class culinary experience. Award-winning chef and food writer Kirsten Dixon—who trained at the prestigious Cordon Bleu in Paris—and her husband, outdoorsman Carl Dixon, built Tutka Bay Lodge amid old-growth Sitka spruces at the mouth of a long fjord. With deep roots and a culinary twist, the lodge offers a host of outdoor activities, including bear watching, hiking, boating, and fishing. Guests can help prepare Kirsten's sea-to-table dishes, whether by catching the main course or chopping foraged herbs in the kitchen.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 cabins with sea and mountain views
- Families welcome; children age 12 and younger can take part in the Kid's Adventure Program
- Open early May through mid-September, with long periods of daylight
- Access by water taxi and seaplane only
- Wellness program featuring yoga classes, a sauna, and spa services

THINGS TO DO

- Travel by helicopter to Katmai to watch grizzlies fish for salmon, or go on a deep-sea fishing excursion.
- Learn from a chef during a cooking class in a rustic kitchen on a repurposed crabbing boat.
- Go sea kayaking in the Kenai Fjord, discovering hidden inlets and wildlife.
- Explore the fjord of Tutka Bay by kayak or rowboat, and watch for whales, dolphins and other marine life.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Fresh Alaskan fare is part of the experience at Tutka Bay Lodge and the chefs grow, forage, and buy local ingredients whenever possible. Guests tend to pitch in to the effort—it's part of the fun. They might kayak to the local floating oyster farm; fly-fish for salmon; and take woodland hikes to forage for wild berries. At the end of the day, they bring their harvest back to the lodge and join the chefs in the kitchen to help prepare an incredible meal.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Enjoy a private gourmet dinner prepared in a repurposed crabbing boat, and receive a complimentary cookbook written by lodge owner Kirsten Dixon.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.





THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK

MONTANA, UNITED STATES



With its weathered barns and rustic elegance, you might think you've stepped back to the turn of the 20th century at The Ranch at Rock Creek. This is quintessential Montana, where you can catch (and release) seven fish species with a personal fly-fishing guide in pristine mountain streams; venture out on endless trails by horseback; or learn roping and join in barnyard games. Take a stagecoach or sleigh ride; test your skills with a bow and arrow; or hit the wildflower trails to bike, hike, or cross-country ski. Wind down at the spa before a memorable meal by The Ranch's renowned chef, and enjoy evening entertainment in the Silver Dollar Saloon.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 29 accommodations, including rooms and suites, private cabins and log homes, and luxury canvas cabins
- Twice-daily guided adventures throughout the four seasons
- Families welcome, with engaging activities for children and teenagers
- Old West saloon offering bowling, billiards, and a theatre
- Mountaintop yoga sessions and a state-of-the-art spa

THINGS TO DO

- Immerse yourself in the Montana wilderness while fly-fishing, horseback riding, or hiking.
- Set out on an evening stagecoach ride and, later, toast s'mores around the fire.
- In summer, cheer on cowboys and cowgirls at the on-site rodeo.
- Sample delectable locally sourced cuisine from barbecues to wine-paired tasting menus.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

This working ranch is home to moose, deer, elk, eagles, wolves, and big horn sheep, plus a Blue Ribbon trout stream. The Ranch at Rock Creek has converted traditional buildings into guest accommodations, using reclaimed timber and fittings in keeping with the character of old Montana. From a summertime weekly rodeo featuring athletes who work at the lodge to barn dances with live music and serene spots to fly-fish, The Ranch offers up a true immersion in the culture of the American West.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Set out with a guide on foot or in an all-terrain vehicle up to a mountain summit or scenic overlook for a delicious picnic, learning about the area's colorful history and ecosystem along the way.

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LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

MONTANA, UNITED STATES



One of the few North American ranches open year-round, Lone Mountain Ranch—located on the edge of Yellowstone National Park—offers something wonderful for every season. In the warmer months, head into the wild backcountry on foot, horseback, or by bike; or simply sit still, casting a line into a shimmering trout stream. When winter comes, Yellowstone's steaming, gem-colored mineral pools are truly magnificent, and miles of trails on the property and in the park beckon cross-country skiers and snowshoers. With barbecues and horseback rides, live music at the saloon and sleigh rides, this is a true taste of life in the Old West.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 24 log cabins and homes
- Families welcome; the Outdoor Youth Adventures program offers ranch- and wilderness-based excursions for children and teenagers
- Weather can be unpredictable; mild summers, and cold, snowy conditions possible in autumn, winter, and spring
- Restaurant and saloon
- Large picnic pavilion for outdoor events

THINGS TO DO

- Seek out Yellowstone's "big five"—elk, grizzlies, black bears, bison, and wolves—on a guided full-day excursion in the park.
- Join a naturalist on a hike, discovering rocky peaks, burbling creeks, and wide-open meadows.
- Step aboard a horse-drawn sleigh for a magical ride through a snow-blanketed wonderland, followed by a candlelit dinner at a remote woodland cabin.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

A working cattle ranch founded in 1915, Lone Mountain is a retreat for families and those seeking a true wilderness experience. Wood-built and cozy, with staff that know your name, the lodge feels like home—and many consider it such, returning year after year to meet up with the friends they made in seasons past. Whether you're saddling up for a trail ride or mingling with guests and locals over drinks in the lodge's saloon, Lone Mountain Ranch is a great place to soak up the spirit of Montana.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join a lodge naturalist for a private walk to the Gallatin River, where you'll learn about preserving the watershed and its ecosystems before enjoying a delicious riverbank picnic.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



BENTWOOD INN

WYOMING, UNITED STATES



This cozy lodge is tucked into old-growth cottonwoods near the banks of the Snake River in Jackson Hole—one of the great adventure capitals of the American West and a hub of fine arts and fine cuisine. With Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone and the National Elk Refuge within easy reach, the list of things to do is virtually endless. Bentwood Inn has close ties with local adventure operators and naturalist guides and the inside scoop on cultural events. The staff can help guests devise a bespoke itinerary that could include anything from dogsledding to wine tasting.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 5 individually decorated rooms with private deck or balcony and fireplace
- Families welcome
- Summer and winter are the most popular times to visit, but each season has its charms
- Bicycles and snowshoes available to guests
- A common area with a several-story fireplace, and a library with books on local natural and cultural heritage

THINGS TO DO

- Hike, bike, or walk miles of trails or head to the Snake River to go fly-fishing.
- Snowshoe and cross-country ski across the same trails in winter, when the surrounding landscape is covered in snow and wildlife is easy to spot.
- Awaken to a gourmet breakfast, gather in the evening for a glass of wine and housemade hors d'oeuvres, and opt for a four-course bistro dinner during your stay.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Situated within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Bentwood Inn draws deeply on its surroundings. It was built from massive pines that once stood tall in Yellowstone National Park and were salvaged after the park's wildfires in 1988. Old fencing that used to surround the three-acre property has been removed to allow wildlife safe passage, so you might catch sight of a moose from your balcony, and mule deer may leap past as you're reading on the deck.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. In spring, summer, and fall, meet with a naturalist guide to learn about the region's ecosystem. From mid-December until early April, set off on a horse-drawn sleigh ride into the National Elk Refuge.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



PETIT ST. VINCENT PRIVATE ISLAND RESORT

PETIT ST. VINCENT, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



A spot of green amid swirls of turquoise seas, Petit St. Vincent is a 115-acre volcanic island fringed with pristine beaches. Outdoor activities are the name of the game here, and this private isle can be explored all kinds of ways: jog a fitness trail, hike to the summit of Marni Hill, or stroll the sandy beaches shaded by tropical flora. The sea holds yet more adventures: guests can snorkel or dive renowned reefs, go for a sail, paddle the shores in a glass-bottom kayak, or learn how to kitesurf. This is a true island getaway, and the greatest decisions you'll have to make each day are which beach to head to and whether to snorkel or paddleboard.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 22 newly renovated cottages and villas
- Families welcome, and most activities are kid-friendly
- Balmy temperatures year-round
- Hillside spa drawing upon Balinese healing rituals in its massages and treatments
- Fleet of Sunfish, kayaks, Hobie Cats, paddleboards, and windsurfing boards—plus a sailboat—for guest use
- Two restaurants offering elegant or more casual dining

THINGS TO DO

- Snorkel on reefs around the island or a boat ride away, or go scuba diving with dive masters from the island's Jean-Michel Cousteau Dive Center.
- Head barefoot down to the beach restaurant for a barbecue accompanied by steel pan music.
- Kids can join staff to feed chickens and tortoises.
- Get your blood pumping on the island's 20-station, self-guided exercise and running trail.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

At Petit St. Vincent, trade paved roads for sand between your toes and crowded beaches for empty stretches of shore. Instead of telephone or Internet, communication happens by semaphore: flags of varying colors communicate your needs to lodge staff, who outnumber guests three to one. The focus here is on celebrating the people you're with and the gorgeous place you're in—whether that means sailing, snorkeling, hiking, and kayaking, or just lazing on an idyllic beach.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take a private snorkeling tour with dive instructors from the island's Jean-Michel Cousteau Dive Centre, and spot corals, fish, and other marine wonders with the experts.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



ROSALIE BAY RESORT

MORNE TROIS PITONS, DOMINICA



Wellness takes center stage at this Caribbean hideaway, set in 22 acres of jungle-fringed coast beneath the peaks of the Morne Trois Pitons—a UNESCO World Heritage site. Rosalie Bay Resort is an ideal base from which to discover the Caribbean's 'Nature Island.' Hike to jungle waterfalls and swim in gem-colored natural pools. Stroll black-sand beaches and kayak rivers that pour down from the mountains. At the lodge, unwind at outdoor meditation spots, enjoy private yoga classes, or work out with the wellness coordinator. For real bliss, hit the spa: treatments in a tree house integrate ingredients such as aloe, coconut oil, and volcanic stones.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 9 cottages with 28 rooms
- Dry season from January to April; rainy season from July to October
- Important sea turtle conservation program, plus trails to discover exotic flowers and birds
- 22 acres of rain forest and coast, perfect for hiking and biking
- Swimming pool, gym, and outdoor meditation areas

THINGS TO DO

- Meet a sea turtle expert to learn about the species that nest and hatch here from March to October.
- Hike to beautiful waterfalls or a 'boiling' lake.
- Head out on the water in one of the lodge's kayaks and explore Rosalie River.
- Enjoy yoga sessions in tranquil meditation spots.
- Snorkel to a bubbling underwater spring or scuba dive with sperm whales (November to March).

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

When owners Beverly Deikel and Patris Oscar set out to build an eco-lodge that celebrated the natural wealth of Dominica, they found sea turtle nests on the property's beach. Protecting these endangered species became a priority. The couple are now internationally recognized for founding Dominica's island-wide sea turtle conservation program—and guests are invited to monitor the nests and hatchlings with the lodge's sea turtle expert.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Learn about Dominican customs on a walk through the local village with a local guide. Meet residents and farmers in their homes along the way, spot local flora and fauna, and stop at a swimming hole for a dip.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



TIAMO RESORT

SOUTH ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS



On the southern shores of Andros Island, gorgeous beaches, mangroves, and coral reefs surround a beach resort that embraces the Bahamas' wild side. Tiamo Resort is located on the oceanfront along a fascinating geological rift that's dotted the island with deep blue holes. So while you can laze on the beach or enjoy a tropical drink at your villa, you can also dive these beguiling underwater caves; snorkel the world's third-largest coral reef; cast a line in some of the world's best bonefishing flats; and spy tropical birdlife, sea turtles, and dolphins while boating with a naturalist.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 13 beachfront rooms and villas
- Fall, winter, and spring are mild; peak storm season typically falls between mid-August to mid-September
- Children of all ages welcome
- Nearly four miles of private beach, accessible only from the lodge or the water
- Open-air bar and restaurant
- Well-equipped gym, boutique, and library

THINGS TO DO

- Snorkel or dive in mesmerizing oceanic blue holes once explored by the legendary Jacques Cousteau.
- Join a dedicated naturalist on a boat tour of Andros's wild western side, spotting sea turtles, sharks, and dolphins, among other marine life.
- Listen to the sounds of the sea as you enjoy soothing therapies—from full-body massages to seaweed wraps—in the shade of tropical palms.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

From its beginnings, Tiamo Resort embraced an environmentally friendly ethos, choosing building methods and operations that were often more physically demanding and time-intensive in the interest of leaving a minimal impact on the island's lush landscapes. Tiamo's commitment to sustainable tourism also means the majority of the staff hails from nearby communities, and guests can explore the island with those who know it best.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Venture through pristine forests with an expert naturalist to learn about traditional uses for wild plants; then take a dip in one of the island's blue holes.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



BELCAMPO LODGE

PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE



A jungle lodge, organic farm, and 12,000-acre nature reserve all in one, Belcampo Lodge in southern Belize has agritourism at its core. Guests here can explore the rain forest by bike, on foot, or in a canoe; or venture out into the world of the Maya at nearby archaeological sites. Spot iguanas, howler monkeys, birds, and crocodiles while paddling down the Rio Grande; or float among tropical fish, rays, and turtles on a snorkeling trip to the Snake Cays and Moho Caye. Then take time out back at the lodge, relaxing in handcrafted furniture, gazing out at the jungle from your private veranda, or sipping local concoctions at the Rum Bar.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 16 suites and a 3-bedroom villa
- Dry season from February to May, wet season from June to December; rain can be expected year-round
- Children of all ages welcome
- Rainforest Spa, nestled above the rain forest canopy, plus two swimming pools
- Jungle Farm Restaurant, Rum Bar, and organic farm

THINGS TO DO

- Spot howler monkeys on a jungle nature trail.
- Catch lobster while snorkeling or diving in the Caribbean and bring it back for the lodge chefs to prepare.
- Explore the Mayan sites of Lubaantun and Nim Li Punit.
- Go kayaking or canoeing on the Rio Grande, looking for monkeys and iguanas on the banks.
- Hike, ride horseback, or mountain bike in the jungle.
- See the local way of life on visits to villages and markets.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Over the past decade, Belcampo has grown from a simple, rustic fishing lodge to a world-class property, all while pioneering agritourism and sustainable food production. Today, its on-site farm provides 70% of the kitchen's food. The retreat also brings its unique jungle and river location to the fore. Guests can learn about Belcampo's organic crops of cane, cacao, coffee, and vanilla while exploring pristine rain forest and the Caribbean Sea.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Turn chocolatier during a Bean to Bar Chocolate class, learning to transform organic cacao into a bar of high-quality chocolate. Then meet the resident coffee expert for a tasting session, called a 'cupping.'

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



JICARO ISLAND ECOLODGE

GRANADA ISLETAS, NICARAGUA



Adventure reigns supreme at Jicaro Island Ecolodge on Lake Nicaragua, whether it's sandboarding down volcanoes, zip-lining in the jungle, or exploring Masaya Volcano National Park. Yet tranquillity plays an equally leading role: head out on a sunset boat tour or kayak from islet to islet, visiting with locals along the way. Enjoy outdoor yoga on the dock, or take a garden walk among hummingbirds and butterflies. If you're after laid-back luxury, the casitas here fit the bill, with comfortable hammocks, wide terraces offering lake views, and special deliveries of early-morning coffee and late-afternoon sundowners.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 9 two-story casitas built among the trees
- Warm weather year-round, with dry season from December to April and green season from May to November
- Kids age 12 and older welcome year-round; age 8 and older welcome March 15 to April 15 and July 1 to August 20
- Swimming pool, plus kayaks and paddleboards
- Wellness Center that offers spa treatments

THINGS TO DO

- Kayak or paddleboard amid the islets of Lake Nicaragua.
- Hike to Mombacho Volcano through plantain and tropical forests, and jump into its magmatic hot springs.
- Explore the jungle canopy by zip line.
- Tour the colonial city of Granada.
- Visit Masaya Volcano National Park and the active Santiago crater.
- Head down the slopes of a volcano on a sandboard.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

A lodge that revels in its solitude and natural surroundings, Jicaro also engages fully with the local community. Some neighbors have started small farms and businesses in partnership with the lodge, and others have been trained to work at the lodge. Jicaro works with a local public charity, Earth Equilibrium, to improve infrastructure, provide basic school supplies, and develop environmental education programs for local schoolchildren.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take a guided excursion to Mombacho Volcano, followed by a picnic and a dip in a hot spring. Enjoy a chance to kayak before heading back to the lodge.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



PACUARE LODGE

LIMÓN PROVINCE, COSTA RICA



Just north of the Talamanca Mountains, the elevated thatched bungalows of Pacuare Lodge are so deep in the rain forest, they can only be accessed by the river whose banks they perch on. Guests splash in on white-water rafts and spend their days immersed in remote wilderness and far away from the world. Here, monkeys, sloths, and birds vie for space in the treetops, and a jaguar might saunter past in the night. You can swing through the canopy on a zip line in the company of a veteran naturalist who was once a poacher. Lantern-lit evenings and the soundtrack of the jungle add to the ambience of this hideaway.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 19 suites and thatched bungalows
- December to April is the dry season; during the rainy season (particularly September to November), river levels are higher and whitewater rides more challenging
- Children age 7 and older welcome, but guests must be at least 12 to arrive and depart by raft
- Wine cellar stocked with vintages from around the world
- Spa that incorporates natural rain forest resources

THINGS TO DO

- Take to the Pacuare River on a variety of excursions by white-water raft or inflatable kayak.
- Explore the El Tesorito Creek Canyon on a canyoneering trip, hiking, climbing, and rappelling.
- Go on a challenging hike to visit a remote Cabécar community and learn about the lifestyle and history of this indigenous group.
- Enjoy a candlelit dinner in the treetops.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Pacuare Lodge has protected its 840 acres through a conservation agreement and, thanks to a reintroduction project sponsored by the lodge, visitors can now spot howler monkeys—a native species that had disappeared from this area. The lodge has also partnered with jaguar expert Dr. Eduardo Carrillo to establish a jaguar conservation program. To top it off, Pacuare Lodge runs environmental education programs at local schools to encourage protection of the rain forest and its resources.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Meet the son of a shaman to learn about the culture and daily lives of the Cabécar people, who inhabit remote parts of the Talamanca Mountains.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



LAPA RIOS ECO LODGE

OSA PENINSULA, COSTA RICA



At the tip of Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, Lapa Rios Eco Lodge lines a ridge in the rain forest, its thatched bungalows facing the jungle and the sea. A thousand acres of protected rain forest surround it, along with three wild beaches and the Golfo Dulce, where humpbacks appear in winter. Naturalist guides here lead guests on a host of excursions, from early morning birding to a back-of-the-house tour of the lodge's green practices. But you don't need to go far to catch sight of wildlife: you might spot a toucan swooping by from your secluded outdoor shower, or get a gander at a sloth while walking to the main lodge.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 17 thatched bungalows with magnificent ocean views
- Dry season from December to April; rainy season from May to November
- Children age 6 and older welcome; many kid-friendly outings available
- Evening talks by naturalists and exhibitions by local artisans
- Yoga classes and ayurvedic massages available

THINGS TO DO

- Hike trails into primary forest, spotting fascinating flora and fauna with the lodge's on-site naturalists.
- Rise early to observe some of the Osa Peninsula's 319 bird species, plus morpho butterflies and mammals.
- Savor delicious meals and superb views at the restaurant.
- Help the Lapa Rios reforestation program by transplanting a primary rain forest seedling to an area of secondary growth.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Built by two former Peace Corps volunteers, Lapa Rios was established to protect unspoiled rain forest and create a buffer zone for Corcovado National Park. The lodge they built is proof that a sustainable experience can also be world-class. From introducing bamboo straws at the bar to using energy generated by pigs, Lapa Rios walks the walk. With Wi-fi in only a few spots, and no telephones or TVs, the lodge offers up a rare chance to unplug and fully focus on the wild world around you.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Enjoy a guided rain forest walk to a series of waterfalls, and take a dip in their natural pools before a private lunch in the treetops.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL

MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO, PERU



Within the cloud forests on the edge of the bustling village of Machu Picchu Pueblo, this lodge is a destination in its own right. Bird-watchers can discover Peru's beautiful feathered inhabitants, while forest trails blooming with rare orchid species beckon budding botanists. Just outside the retreat, the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu lures history buffs, and hikers are spoiled for choice. The legendary Inca Trail passes right by, and dramatic peaks offer up all manner of paths. Unwind in the hot springs or the eucalyptus sauna, get a massage after a day of climbing the ruins, and dine in a lodge colored with the spirit of Andean culture.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 81 casitas furnished in Andean style
- Subtropical highland climate, with warm, humid days and cool nights
- Families welcome
- Amazing location in the heart of the Peruvian cloud forest
- Eco-center with resources on flora, fauna, and archaeology
- Andean spa incorporating natural ingredients

THINGS TO DO

- Discover several hundred species of rare blooms on the Orchid Trail.
- Make your own tea—from leaf to bag—at the lodge's organic tea plantation.
- Explore the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu or hike to the Andes for stunning views of the sites.
- See petroglyphs with a naturalist guide, and visit the property's bear rescue center.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel protects a pristine swath of cloud forest, full of delicate flowers and exotic birdlife. Over a hundred species of butterfly, 200 of bird, and nearly 400 types of orchid surround the lodge, and guests can wind their way along on-site nature trails to spot them. Conceived by a pioneering sustainable tourism company, the hotel is involved in numerous projects that support the local community and environment.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join an Inkaterra guide for a visit to the Andean Bear Rescue Center, a rehabilitation center on the property that works to conserve the only bear species in South America.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



INKATERRA HACIENDA URUBAMBA

SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA, PERU



Many visitors to Peru's Southern Highlands treat the Sacred Valley as the road to Machu Picchu. But those who stop at Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba will discover the magic of the surrounding mountains—a place where ancient relics of Inca-Spanish battles coexist with lively market towns and traditional weaving hamlets. These peaks are a playground for nature enthusiasts and those seeking spiritual and physical respite, with endless hiking and birding opportunities. They're also home to Quechua communities—descendants of the Inca. Delve into contemporary Quechua culture and cuisine while exploring the legacy of the Inca empire.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

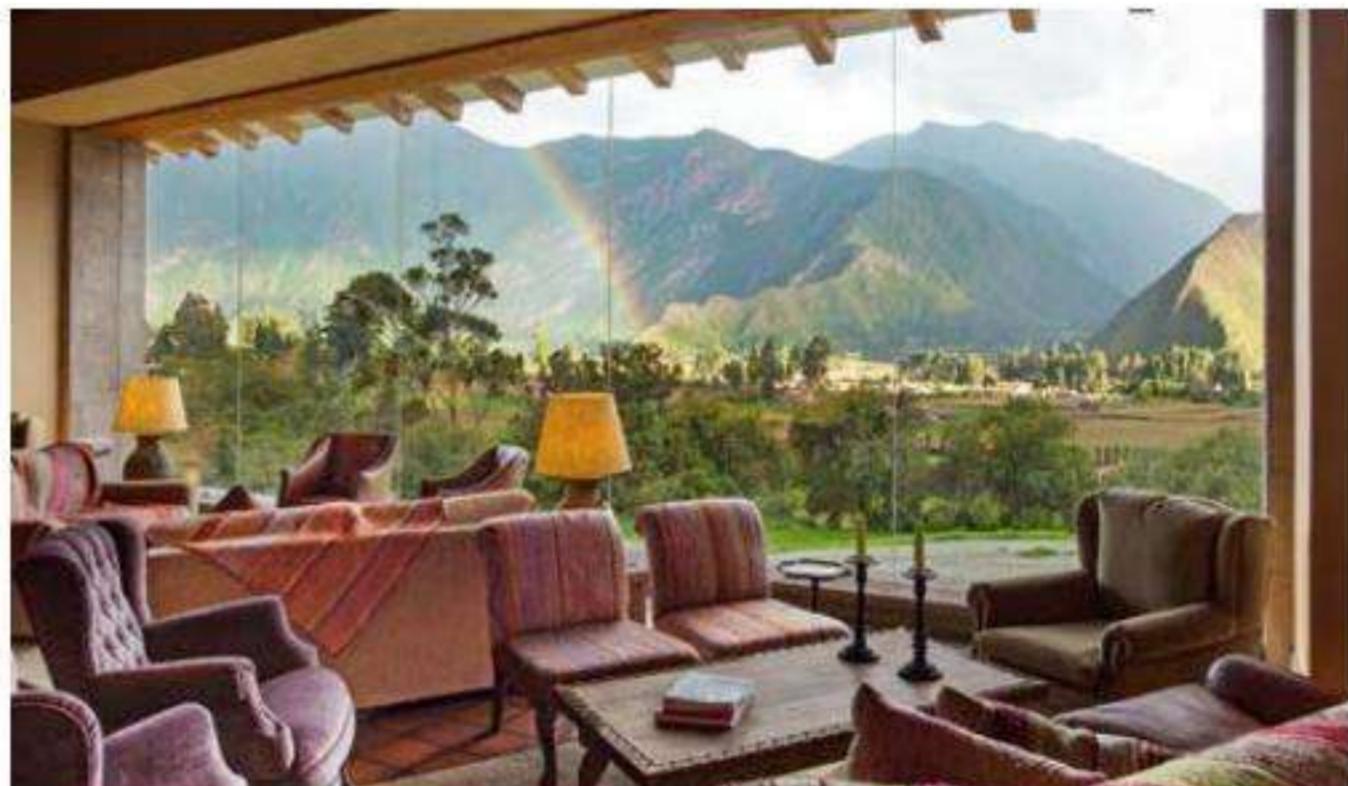
- 12 luxury rooms in the main lodge and 24 private casitas
- Dry season from April to October; rainy season from November to March
- Eco-center and 10-acre farm
- Bar, wine cave, lounge, terrace, and dining room with panoramic views of the Andes
- At around 9,500 feet above sea level, it can take time to adjust to the altitude

THINGS TO DO

- Hike the emerald slopes of the magnificent Andes, spotting rare bird species and taking in views of terracotta-roofed villages of the Sacred Valley.
- Stargaze on the terrace with an expert in Inca astrology.
- Grab a lantern for a twilight walk in the hills and watch night fall on the Sacred Valley.
- Learn the ancestral production of a traditional corn beer called chicha de jora.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

This mountain hideaway offers insights into the Sacred Valley—a region often overlooked by travelers headed for Machu Picchu—as well as phenomenal views. Local naturalists and cultural guides introduce you to the Quechua culture on excursions to villages, Inca sites, and farming areas. Back at the lodge, peer at quinoa plants and tree tomatoes in the gardens, enjoy a freshly shaken pisco sour before a mouthwatering meal, and gaze at the celestial bodies that inspired the building of Inca temples.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join a naturalist in the on-site Chicha House for a hands-on lesson in brewing chicha de jora, a local corn beer.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



INKATERRA HACIENDA CONCEPCIÓN

AMAZON RAIN FOREST, PERU



There's no better way to experience the Amazon than to be at one with it, waking to a cacophony of chirps and chatters, and passing monkeys and macaws on the way to breakfast. The cabañas at Inkaterra Hacienda Concepcion are consummately comfortable, yet surrounded by jungle. Screens replace walls, so you can see bromeliads glistening and bright birds flitting about from the comfort of your bed. Explore the property's winding paths, trek to wildlife-rich lakes, and take walks with naturalists to discover the conservation projects at the heart of this private ecological reserve on the grounds of a former cacao and rubber plantation.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 en suite rooms and 19 cabañas on stilts
- Tropical hot and humid climate with a cooler season from June to September; rainy season from November to April; and dry season from May to October
- Children age 5 and older are welcome
- Eco-center and medicinal botanical garden
- Dining room and bar in thatched pavilion
- Walks, hikes, and boat outings with expert naturalists

THINGS TO DO

- Cross a series of hanging walkways 98 feet up in the forest canopy.
- Hike to Lake Sandoval and paddle across it in a dugout canoe, watching for caimans and birdlife.
- Take a night walk to find the nocturnal species of the jungle, including frogs, night monkeys, and more.
- Visit the property's cacao plantation and make your own organic chocolate from the bean.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

For the duration of your stay here, you're immersed in the jungle and the way of life of the people of the Amazon. Learn to cook fish in a stalk of bamboo or sample tamales wrapped in banana leaves. You'll have a skilled naturalist at hand to explain how to distinguish between monkey species, or why a certain tree moves through the forest by itself, or which plant could cure a particular disease. There's nowhere on the planet like the Amazon, and this is a fantastically comfortable base from which to explore it.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take a private guided tour of the lodge's cacao plantation, then learn to mill the bean into raw chocolate and make a local delicacy: cacao bread.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



INKATERRA LA CASONA

CUSCO, PERU



On an historic square in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cusco, this 16th-century manor house serves up traditional Peruvian dishes in a courtyard where South American heroes and Inca warriors once strolled. Feast on quinoa pancakes at breakfast and, at dinner, enjoy a pisco sour—Peru's national drink—while relaxing amid antiques and locally made textiles and ceramics. Step outside to discover Cusco's surprises, from Inca sites to colonial churches and a vibrant arts district. Or go further afield, perhaps on a mountain bike, to explore the Sacred Valley and its timeless villages. Return to the lodge for spa treatments using local botanicals.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 11 individually decorated suites
- Mild year-round, with cold nights during winter (May to August)
- Families welcome
- Spa offering tailored treatments using local botanicals
- Peruvian-influenced cuisine served in the courtyard
- Located more than 11,000 feet above sea level; it may take time to adjust to the high altitude

THINGS TO DO

- Explore Cusco's historical district, right outside the lodge's front door.
- Venture into the nearby Sacred Valley to discover alpaca farms, weaving villages, and Inca ruins.
- Trek on horseback or by mountain bike across Andean landscapes.
- Visit four important Inca sites within Cusco's borders, including the fortress of Sacsayhuaman.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

This historic mansion, now a national monument, was one of the first Spanish constructions in Cusco. The original structure, built atop Inca foundations, housed the training ground for an elite Inca army. It was later inhabited by a conquistador and, for a short time, was even home to famed revolutionary Simón Bolívar. The house has been meticulously restored and furnished, and to step inside is to step into another era.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join an architectural tour of the historic manor with the lodge manager and learn about the restoration that brought this colonial gem back to its original glory.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



MASHPI LODGE

CHOCÓ RAINFOREST, ECUADOR



An oasis of sleek design ensconced within 3,200 acres of cloud forest, Mashpi Lodge offers an intimate experience within the wilderness of the Chocó—one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Hike through the trees to a glorious waterfall; or ride through the canopy on the innovative SkyBike, or the new Dragonfly cable car. Watch for numerous species of hummingbird and butterfly, and learn how scientists set camera traps to track the movements of rare, nocturnal creatures like pumas. On-site naturalists and researchers offer guided hikes and talks to promote awareness and understanding of the Chocó.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 22 guest rooms with stunning views
- Mild temperatures year-round; rains, mist, and humidity are to be expected
- Families welcome
- Life Centre: a research lab and vivarium with a vast butterfly collection
- Rain forest-inspired spa
- Bar and restaurant incorporating native fruits and flowers

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the Chocó's flora and fauna with naturalists.
- Soar through the treetops on the Dragonfly cable system, or propel yourself by pedalling a Skybike.
- Peer at butterflies and learn about the forest's endemic species during talks by researchers in the Life Centre.
- Cool off with a dip in natural pools and waterfalls.
- Sip coffee on the terrace, watching birds as the morning mist rises.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Roque Sevilla, a former mayor of Quito, bought this patch of cloud forest from loggers and turned it into a reserve focused on conservation and a world-class, sustainable experience. To build the lodge, all the materials were brought into the forest using existing logging roads and assembled on the spot—without removing a single tree. Sevilla trained local people who once worked as loggers to staff his lodge, helping the community transition to livelihoods based on conservation instead of deforestation.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Go behind the scenes of the lodge's Life Centre with the resident biologist before getting a scientist's outlook on the forest ecosystems during a research outing.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



FINCH BAY GALÁPAGOS HOTEL

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR



Nestled amid the trees along the shore of Isla Santa Cruz, Finch Bay Galápagos Hotel offers a slice of island life on the archipelago that so enchanted Charles Darwin over 150 years ago. A short stroll from your contemporary room, you'll find all the creatures that make the Galápagos unique. Walk down to the beach to snorkel among sea lions and marine iguanas, or sip a drink by the pool in the company of herons and Darwin's finches. Then head out with naturalists on a full-day excursion in the lodge's yacht to discover lava-hewn islands where Sally Lightfoot crabs scamper and blue-footed boobies strut.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 27 rooms and suites
- Temperate weather year-round; December to May is warmer and wetter
- Families welcome; children can take part in plenty of the activities offered
- Solar-heated pool and beachfront access
- Gourmet restaurant serving sustainably sourced dishes and a wide selection of fine wines, plus an outdoor bar

THINGS TO DO

- Meet giant tortoises on a naturalist-led visit to a tortoise reserve and the Charles Darwin Research Center.
- Sail around the archipelago in the lodge's private yacht, stopping to visit its unique islands with naturalists.
- Go diving at North Seymour and Daphne Minor, or snorkel amid tropical fish and seabirds.
- Hike up the volcanic peaks of Bartolomé Island and wander Santa Cruz's cactus groves.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Finch Bay Galápagos Hotel is built on sustainability and respect for the habitats that surround it. It's also deeply involved in this unique archipelago, helping to fund coastal cleanups, hosting meetings between conservation organizations, and inviting young Galápagueño students to explore the islands aboard the lodge's yacht. Through such education programs, Finch Bay seeks to instill an understanding of the natural wonders of the Galápagos—and hopefully inspire resident students to help preserve it.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Go behind the scenes for a cooking class with Finch Bay's executive chef or sous chef and learn to make authentic ceviche with fresh, local fare.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



RESERVA DO IBITIPOCA

MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL



Set where the Atlantic Forest meets caverns and canyons, Reserva do Ibitipoca is a 40,000-acre haven of tropical forests, mountains, and waterfalls. Lose yourself in these magical natural scenes: swim in the waters of the Prainha Waterfall, join a rafting trip on the Salto River, discover tropical blooms at the Garden of Bromeliads, and look for 350 species of birds with a trained birding guide. Reserva do Ibitipoca is a marvel of geology and botany. This is a place to be savored, whether you're watching the sunset from a mountaintop, enjoying a massage beside a waterfall, or just soaking up the ambience of an 18th-century farmhouse.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 8 suites in a restored, 18th-century farmhouse and 3 suites in Carlinhos House, a smaller, secluded farmhouse a short walk away
- Mild temperatures year-round
- Spa built within a barn, plus a wood-heated sauna, hot tub, and heated hydro-massage
- Nearby waterfall with a natural pool and white-sand beach of crushed quartz

THINGS TO DO

- Go on hikes and horseback rides to discover tropical forests, mountaintop “beaches,” and quartzite formations.
- Spot green-billed toucans, seriema, green-headed tanagers, Brazilian tanagers, surucua trogons, and more.
- After a day of hiking, enjoy a massage on the river’s edge and a private dinner under the stars.
- Savor meals made with ingredients produced on site, and learn local recipes and cooking techniques from the chef.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

By replanting large tracts of former farmland with native species, Reserva do Ibitipoca is creating an environment where rare species can once again thrive. Recent efforts have focused on the critically endangered northern muriqui (woolly spider monkey), one of the two largest species of New World monkeys. The reserve offers a safe haven to several muriquis, and an international team of biologists is working with the lodge to start a viable colony.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. On a guided tour, learn about sustainable agricultural methods, agroforestry, and how to make cheese—you can even milk a goat or cow. Finally, enjoy a private meal in a special place.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404.



TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA

TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE



Perched on a bluff on the edge of Chile's Lake Sarmiento, Tierra Patagonia is a majestic base from which to explore the beauty and diversity of Patagonia. Wildlife such as guanaco and nandu mingle with free-roaming horses and sheep here, and the lodge's award-winning architecture frames stunning views of Torres del Paine National Park. Get outdoors and immerse yourself in nature: explore vast grasslands, spend the day hiking amid mind-blowing mountain vistas, go fly-fishing on alpine lakes, and follow trails to glistening glaciers and waterfalls. At the end of an adventurous day, return to the lodge for a swim or a massage in the spa.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 37 standard and superior rooms and 3 suites
- Closed May through September
- Climate fluctuates; be prepared to experience all four seasons in one day
- Children of all ages welcome
- Restaurant serving locally inspired fare, plus bar
- Uma Spa with steam bath, sauna, heated indoor pool, and an array of treatments

THINGS TO DO

- Saddle up with gauchos and set off into the hills or through thick lenga forests on a half-day ride.
- Join Patagonian guides on a variety of hikes, from a lakeside walk to a famous trek to the "Towers."
- Explore the region with a guide: spot wildlife in remote valleys, see the gushing cascades of Salto Grande, visit iceberg-strewn lakes, and reach parts of the park off-limits to the general public.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Tierra Patagonia is a celebration of, and an immersion into, the natural beauty of the region. Chilean craftspeople and sustainably harvested materials were employed to realize its innovative design, inspired by traditional estancias and the building style of the indigenous Tehuelche people. Within, wooden interiors direct your view outward to vast and spectacular Patagonia. The lodge gives back to this landscape, supporting a reforestation campaign that seeks to plant a million trees in Patagonia.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take a tour of the lodge to learn about its design and the robust sustainability program it follows in daily operations. You'll also receive a book about the property, signed by the lodge's owner and general manager.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



TIERRA ATACAMA HOTEL & SPA

ATACAMA DESERT, CHILE



Situated amid the lava-sculpted, salt-glazed deserts of northern Chile, Tierra Atacama is an oasis from which to discover geology's extremes: snow-dusted volcanoes, steaming geyser fields, glittering salt pans, and lunar-like landscapes make up the most arid place on the planet. The lodge and its guides offer a plethora of ways to discover the area and its wildlife. Drive through the Altiplano to explore highland lagoons; join a biking excursion to Devil's Canyon; hike among candelaria cacti; or test your limits with a challenging volcano climb. Return to the lodge to relax in the spa, enjoy a glass of Chilean red by the bonfire, or stargaze.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 32 rooms with mountain or volcano views
- Mild and dry weather year-round
- Families welcome, and excursions balance discovery and unstructured fun
- Spa with a range of treatments incorporating natural desert ingredients
- Map room for planning excursions
- Restaurant and lounge with volcano views

THINGS TO DO

- Spend the day exploring surreal salt pans or steaming geysers before indulging in a hot-stone massage at the rejuvenating Uma Spa.
- Journey to the surreal Moon Valley and bathe in natural hot springs—a rarity in one of the world's driest places.
- Ride through the desert on an Atacameñan horse.
- Stargaze at the nearby observatory, using high-powered telescopes to view some of the darkest skies anywhere.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Located in the arid, volcano-dotted Atacama Desert region, Tierra Atacama draws on its unique surroundings, creating a feeling of being at one with nature. Natural desert elements are used for a variety of treatments at the Uma Spa; and, come evening, the lighting at the lodge is designed to leave the night sky undisturbed for stargazers. This is a world-class lodge where cutting-edge architectural details are designed to be subtle so that the authentic character of the surroundings shines through.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join the manager on a back-of-house tour of the lodge, visiting its solar energy and water treatment facilities. Then stroll through the gardens, learning about unusual native plants like *rica rica*, used in medicine.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



KAPARI NATURAL RESORT

SANTORINI, GREECE



On the highest bluffs of Santorini, a hamlet of 300-year-old cave dwellings faces the volcanic caldera far below, offering epic views of the island's legendary sunset far from the crowds. The intimate cluster of vaulted rooms and whitewashed terraces was painstakingly refurbished by the Adamidis family, the owners of this special spot for generations. Located in the quiet village of Imerovigli and home to a renowned restaurant, Kapari Natural Resort is a secret retreat on an island that's become a favorite among the Cyclades.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 14 rooms and suites with views of the caldera
- Children age 15 and older welcome
- Mild climate with warm, sunny days in summer and rainier days in winter
- Outdoor infinity pool and whirlpool baths
- Acclaimed restaurant and relaxing bar
- Located on clifftop trail that stretches for miles along the coast

THINGS TO DO

- Head to a 13th-century Venetian castle to examine the traditional Cycladic musical instruments on display.
- Hit the trails with a geologist, winding through old farms and landscapes defined by volcanoes and earthquakes.
- Sail into the caldera on an afternoon cruise after lunch right on the waterfront.
- Sip cocktails at sunset on a white-washed perch at the lodge.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

On an island with plenty of hotels to choose from, Kapari is a refreshingly homegrown retreat in one of Santorini's most serene villages. From the delightful cuisine sourced from a farm down the road to the rock-carved architecture that embraces timeless Cycladic design, this lodge captures the essence of the island. And with its central location on the cliffs near Fira, everything you'd want to do on Santorini is within easy reach.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Visit the organic farm that supplies much of the produce used in Kapari's kitchen, and take a tour with the farmer.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



ARISTI MOUNTAIN RESORT & VILLAS

ARISTI, GREECE



Set on the edge of Vikos-Aoös National Park in the Pindos Mountains of northern Greece, this lodge is surrounded by thick forests, sparkling rivers and lakes, and age-old stone villages through which Ottoman traders once passed. The region's spectacular focal point is the Vikos Gorge, a limestone canyon that—by some measures—is the deepest in the world. Exploration here comes in many forms: go river rafting or horseback riding, visit villages or drive through the mountains. Hiking is in season year-round, with over 100 trails running through the reserve. Come sunset, the valley's cliffs light up in brilliant shades of pink and violet.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 24 rooms, suites, and villas
- Families welcome; rooms can be furnished with extra beds to accommodate bigger groups
- Mediterranean/continental climate, with temperatures that fluctuate over four distinct seasons
- Spa with sauna and steam room, plus indoor heated pool and hot tub
- Shared terrace offering panoramic views

THINGS TO DO

- Wander the cobble-stoned alleyways and main square of Aristi village, losing yourself in this town out of the past.
- Set out on a drive through the mountains to discover the old stone bridges and villages of Zagori.
- Savor distinctive northern Greek fare on the lodge patio while taking in views of rock cliffs and river valleys.
- Hike through the Vikos Gorge, or climb nearby peaks for views of it.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Built of stone in keeping with the surrounding villages, Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas was designed to celebrate the timeless culture and intriguing history of the mountainous Zagori region. In order to preserve the character of the area, Aristi has established a network of local businesses to encourage sustainable tourism and development. For guests, this means stepping back in time to an enchanting place—without sacrificing modern comforts.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join a guide on a private visit to a 16th-century monastery that's off limits to the general public.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.





ASHFORD CASTLE

MAYO, IRELAND



Bed down like royalty in an 800-year-old castle once owned by the Guinness family, and spend your waking hours immersed in Irish country life. Against a backdrop of medieval turrets, join a fisherman on Lough Corrib or take a walk with resident Irish wolfhounds Garvan and Cronan. Archery and falconry are popular pastimes here, and endless trails beckon horseback-riders and mountain bikers. The Irish countryside is on your doorstep: within easy reach are mountains, the mystical bogs of Connemara, and a scattering of fishing villages. Back at this fairytale castle, dine in a dungeon, or savor a single malt in the billiards room.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 83 individually decorated rooms, including the Hideaway Cottage—a refurbished boathouse beside the lake
- Families and pets welcome
- Rain possible year-round, but clouds and showers often blow past quickly
- Wine cellars located within 19th-century tunnels
- Three restaurants, a bar, billiards room, cinema, cigar terrace, and state-of-the-art spa

THINGS TO DO

- Bike along more than 20 miles of trails, play golf on the property's nine-hole course, or head out on hikes along the lakeshore.
- Enjoy access to all kinds of activities that befit the Irish countryside: falconry, horseback riding, archery, fly-fishing, zip-lining, and more.
- Watch a movie in the castle cinema, or shoot pool among stately antiques in the billiards room.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Ashford Castle was a shadow of its former self when it was purchased by the Tollman family in 2013. They set about to restore the building, as well as the neglected relationship with the community. A local construction company spent two years repointing centuries-old stones under the guidance of a conservation architect. Hidden details were discovered, while artwork and antiques were added to mirror the castle's distinguished cultural heritage. Today, the castle is as friendly and warm as it is grand and historic.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Step back in time with a local historian, who will share tales and archives from the long and colorful history of Ashford Castle.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SABI SABI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

SABI SAND RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA



For front-row views of some of Africa's most breathtaking wildlife spectacles, plot a course to this stunning collection of four lodges set within Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve. Each lodge has its own design and character, from the family-friendly Bush Lodge to the nature-inspired suites of Earth Lodge. You could spot a passing elephant while sipping a gin and tonic amid old world charm of Selati Camp or from your private plunge pool at the intimate Little Bush Camp. A pioneering property that's been hosting safaris for 35 years, Sabi Sabi offers elegant outposts in one of the world's wildest places.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- Bush Lodge: 25 suites; Selati Camp: 7 suites; Little Bush Camp: 6 suites; Earth Lodge: 13 suites
- Dry season from May to September; rainy "green" season from October to April. Excellent game viewing opportunities in each season
- International fare served at the restaurant, al fresco, and in intimate spots in the lodges; wine cellar at Earth Lodge
- Outdoor showers with views in each suite; two Amani spas

THINGS TO DO

- Join a tracker and ranger to seek out legendary wildlife, including the "big five," in an open 4x4 vehicle.
- Learn tracking techniques, examine native plants, and spot smaller creatures on a walking safari.
- Get acquainted with the local Shangaan culture during a tour of a local village, visiting a school, and meeting a traditional healer and village elders.
- Enjoy sundowners while watching sunsets in the bush.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

For more than 35 years, Sabi Sabi has protected and respected the vast biodiversity of its surroundings—and local communities that have long lived here—earning a reputation for unparalleled safari experiences along the way. The benefits of integrating community and conservation are evident in their operations, and the majority of their staff hails from the region. Sabi Sabi's real draw, however, is its wildlife-viewing opportunities, facilitated by rangers and local Shangaan trackers.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience according to the lodge you choose. At Earth Lodge, for example, enjoy a private dinner in the wine cellar and an introduction to award-winning wines.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



TSWALU KALAHARI

KALAHARI, SOUTH AFRICA



In the 'Green Kalahari', grassy savanna intersects with dunes and mountains, giving rise to unusual ecosystems and rare wildlife. Some 250,000 acres of this habitat has been replenished after years of neglect and overuse, thanks to Nicky Oppenheimer, owner of the Tswalu Kalahari reserve. Safaris don't get more intimate than this: with no more than 30 guests and a dedicated naturalist guide, you'll have vast landscapes all to yourself. Track black-maned lions, black and white rhinos, zebras, and leopards, before returning to your private sundeck for an outdoor shower with incredible bush views. At night, see a million stars—there's no light pollution for miles.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 9 suites and a private homestead with 5 suites
- November to March is hot with some rain; June to August is cool and dry; the rest of year is mild
- Children of all ages welcome
- Spa treatments and al fresco yoga classes available
- Restaurant serving up authentic South African flavors
- Private vehicle and guide for every booking
- Gym with savanna views

THINGS TO DO

- Learn to identify animal tracks with a private guide, try out traditional archery, and take bushwalks—activities tailored for families but fun for all.
- Head out on horseback and ride among the creatures of the Kalahari.
- Go on a night game drive, observing nocturnal wildlife.
- Contemplate the ancient engravings of the Kalahari's San people, whose art is among the oldest on Earth.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

With around 88 mammal and 240 bird species in the Kalahari, Tswalu has honed the art of close encounters perfectly, tailoring each experience to its guests, from guided game drives to bush walks and horseback safaris. Guests have the opportunity to learn about the diverse habitats and wildlife of the Kalahari grasslands including unique species such as the meerkat and the pangolin, while exploring with trackers and talking with the resident ecologists.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Sit down to breakfast with the lodge's wildlife manager and enjoy insights into life in the bush and the incredible creatures of the Kalahari.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



BUSHMANS KLOOF WILDERNESS RESERVE & WELLNESS RETREAT

WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



In the rugged foothills of the Cederberg Mountains, Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat takes you 10,000 years back in time, to an era when the indigenous San people inhabited this region and illustrated their lives by painting on rocks. Explore the San's cultural legacy, examining some of the 130 rock art sites on the property with a guide. Then set out on bike or on hikes, discovering wildlife such as the Cape mountain zebra, black wildebeest, and antelope. At the lodge, sit back and take in the view, retreat to your patio to enjoy glimpses of sun-baked cliffs and sandstone rock formations, or stroll in the tranquillity gardens.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 16 rooms and suites, plus a private villa
- Summers are perfect for water activities like canoeing, fly-fishing and swimming, while winter is a great time for biking, hiking and nature-based excursions
- Children age 8 and over welcome; family-focused events held during summer and winter
- Spa with steam room and meditation lounge; four pools
- Several dining venues, including Embers

THINGS TO DO

- Delve deep in to the history of the ancient Bushman people, with exclusive access to more than 130 ancient rock art sites—many dating back over 10,000 years.
- Hike or bike through fields of wildflowers in search of gemsboks, wildebeest, and Cape mountain zebras.
- Canoe down tributaries of the Olifants River.
- Practice archery, play croquet, and attend talks by local experts about birding, stargazing, and more.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Bushman's Kloof's commitment to telling the tale of the indigenous San people and their spectacular rock art lies at the heart of the retreat. With a mission to preserve this cultural legacy, the lodge has been pivotal in helping the art be recognized as a South African heritage site. Since opening in 1996, the property's owners have also worked hard to transform the overgrazed land into an area that's now thriving with reintroduced indigenous flora and fauna, including the Cape mountain zebra.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Meet the lodge's rock art curator to learn about the property's San paintings before a private tour of the on-site Heritage Center and a viewing of the rock art sites.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA



Follow the coast up from Africa's southernmost tip to find Grootbos Private Nature Reserve poised on a hilltop above wild beaches, offering postcard-worthy views of the Western Cape. Check in to an enchanting lodge set in a clearing in a milkwood forest, and head to Walker Bay to spot the "marine big five": great white sharks, southern right whales, seals, penguins, and dolphins. Saddle up to ride horseback into vast swaths of fynbos, an unusual floral kingdom that exists nowhere else on Earth. End the days on your private deck with a glass of South Africa's finest wine, watching the sunset light up the ocean and the jagged shores.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 27 rooms and suites with private decks
- Visit July to December for the fynbos and blossoms, or June to December for whale-watching
- Families welcome; children can take part in tours, treasure hunts, and pony rides
- Two spas and two pools
- Two acclaimed restaurants, showcasing local seafood and produce grown on-site, plus organic gardens

THINGS TO DO

- Follow trails on horseback, on foot, or by 4x4 vehicle through the fynbos and into the hills above Walker Bay.
- Venture into the mammoth Klipgat Cave, where prehistoric artifacts have been discovered.
- Go whale-watching from shore or on a wildlife cruise.
- Take a coastal walk, delving into tide pools and swimming in sheltered bays.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The Lutzeyer family behind Grootbos has ensured conservation and close community connections are at the heart of the retreat. Having purchased the land in 1991, the family restored farmland to native fynbos while also training students from the area in conservation and horticulture. The lodge's efforts in this area are vital: a recent survey at Grootbos revealed a fynbos species count of 765, of which 100 are endangered.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Indulge in a private dinner in the milkwood forest boma, surrounded by 1,000-year-old trees and served by dedicated waiting staff.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



ZARAFa CAMP

SELINDA RESERVE, BOTSWANA



On the edge of a lagoon in northern Botswana are the elegant tents that make up Zarafa Camp. From them, you can hear lions roar while snuggled up in bed, or sip on sundowners as elephants roam past your veranda. This is a land teeming with wildlife, from zebras wading into watering holes to huge herds of buffalo drinking on the water's edge, and Zarafa—remote and intimate—is a perfect spot to take in the scene. The lodge's co-founders will attest to this—they're filmmakers, conservationists, and National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Dereck and Beverly Joubert, who were captivated by this strip of land while on a film shoot.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 4 canvas tents and a private villa
- Pleasant weather year-round, with a warm, rainy season from November to March, and a cooler, dry season from May to August
- Children age 8 and older are welcome; the Young Explorers Program is tailored to suit all ages
- Professional photography equipment and Swarovski binoculars in each tent

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the Selinda Reserve and its inhabitants by 4x4 vehicle, on foot, or on a night safari.
- Set off on a boat trip across the Zibadianja Lagoon, spotting wallowing hippos and wading elephants.
- Head out with a birding expert and identify many different avian species.
- Take some time out to practice yoga on your private veranda.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

As National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence, the Jouberts have produced a dozen films with National Geographic, many of which feature the dramatic wildlife of Botswana. The duo are also responsible for forming Zarafa's parent company, Great Plains Conservation, which has spearheaded several conservation initiatives. One such program is Rhinos Without Borders, which relocates endangered rhinos from areas in South Africa where poaching is rife to safe havens in Botswana.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Indulge in a gourmet meal with wine pairings before a special bush viewing of a wildlife conservation film created by lodge founders Dereck and Beverly Joubert.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

SOUTH LUANGWA, ZAMBIA



Creatures are king at this retreat in South Luangwa National Park—Zambia's premier wildlife destination. It's here you'll discover a trail of oxbow lakes and watering holes as the Luangwa River snakes through forests and grasslands, creating a habitat rich with flora and fauna. In addition to the main Mfuwe Lodge, The Bushcamp Company has six unique Bushcamps, ranging from thatched chalets on the edge of a watering hole, to stilted river treehouses and stylish tents beside an oxbow lagoon. This is surely the only place where you can watch elephants march through the lobby and hippos wallow in a lagoon from your private veranda.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 18 chalets at Mfuwe Lodge; 23 chalets across 6 Bushcamps
- Dry season from May to October; rainy season from November to April. The Bushcamps are closed for parts of the year depending on their location
- Families are welcome; children must be age 12 or older to join a walking safari
- Swimming pool and spa at Mfuwe Lodge

THINGS TO DO

- Track footprints and signs of wildlife on an eye-opening walking safari.
- Spot everything from bushbucks and zebras to wild dogs and elephants on a 4x4 game drive.
- Sip cocktails while watching the African sunset then hop into an open-top vehicle for a nocturnal safari.
- Visit a nearby village and textile workshop.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

It has to be seen to be believed. Every November, a herd of elephants marches through the hotel's lobby on the way to their favorite mango tree, setting the scene for what The Bushcamp Company hosts with aplomb: intimate wildlife encounters. Walking safaris are the mainstay of every experience here, and they're led by some of the best safari guides in the business. Expect exhilarating encounters with all kinds of creatures in one of Africa's lesser known wildlife parks.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take a private excursion to the local schools that The Bushcamp Company supports, where you'll visit classrooms and dormitories built by the lodge, learn about education initiatives, and meet the students.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



AND BEYOND MATETSI RIVER LODGE

VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE



Stretched along the shores of the Zambezi on the largest private wildlife concession in the area, Matetsi River Lodge and Matetsi River House offer up an adventure both aquatic and terrestrial. Glimpse elephants and hippos as you canoe down this epic waterway, which lures a staggering variety of wildlife; look out for elusive leopards on a game drive; and trace the tracks of lions, antelopes, and hippos on a walking safari. It's not just the inhabitants of this fascinating wilderness that'll capture your imagination. Upriver, the iconic Victoria Falls plunge into a chasm—and you can experience them in all sorts of adventurous ways.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 18 suites at 2 camps, plus a 4-bedroom villa, the Matetsi River House
- Dry season from August to October; rainy season from November to March/April
- Families welcome; children can take part in the WILDChild program
- Swimming pool, safari shop, wine cellar, library, gym, and massage salon

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the iconic Zambezi by canoe, or go on a wildlife cruise.
- Observe large herds of elephants and buffaloes, as well as hippos, lions, leopards, African wild dogs, and hyenas during a game drive or walking safari.
- Witness the majesty of Victoria Falls on a guided tour.
- Enjoy an elegant dining experience beneath mangosteen trees while looking out at the river.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The creation of Matetsi River Lodge was a key part of transforming the 123,000-acre Matetsi concession from a hunting ground into the protected reserve it's become today. The lodge continues to restore the surrounding habitat and its wildlife, developing boreholes and providing security to protect wildlife from threats. The lodge has created an unspoiled environment where flora and fauna can thrive—and guests can enjoy a top-notch wildlife experience off the beaten path.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Sit down to a private breakfast with the reserve manager before a behind-the-scenes tour of the lodge and the reserve; then head into the field together to learn more about the area's ecology.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



ANDBEYOND BENGUERRA ISLAND

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO, MOZAMBIQUE



Surrounded by swirling turquoise seas, the six islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago in the Mozambique Channel have been a national park since 1971. At the edge of a seemingly endless white-sand beach lies Benguerra Island, a collection of thatched casinhas just a stone's throw from the sea. A quick boat ride away there are world-class diving sites, where you may spot a dolphin, a manta ray, or even a dugong in the deep. Try your hand at catch-and-release deep-sea fishing, kick back on a sunset catamaran cruise in the Bay of Benguerra, or get away from it all with a secluded picnic. Then pull up a stool at the beach bar, set in a wooden dhow.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 10 casinhas and 2 cabanas, plus the Casa Família
- Families welcome
- Warm and sunny year-round
- Set in a protected marine conservation area
- Massage sala and a dive center
- Vast wooden verandas and cool plunge pools
- Al fresco dining areas and a covered lounge with a library

THINGS TO DO

- Embark on a tranquil cruise in a traditional sailing dhow.
- Explore the island's hidden trails on horseback, solo, or accompanied by a guide.
- Head to a secluded island with your traveling partner and enjoy an exclusive snorkeling experience.
- Journey to the northern side of the island to visit the village school and church, and meet the locals.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The lodge began as a fishing camp years ago and has been transformed into a beautiful beachside retreat. The Mozambique Channel that surrounds the island is home to Africa's only known population of dugong, a cousin of the manatee, as well as other large cetaceans, unspoiled coral reefs, and crystal-clear waters. To keep these waters healthy, the lodge works with locals to diversify their livelihoods and reduce their dependence on fishing, which is the greatest threat to many of these marine species.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Visit a local village to see the work of the lodge's community development partner, Africa Foundation. Explore the lodge's vegetable garden with the head chef before breakfast on a private beach.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.





ANDBEYOND NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE

NGORONGORO CRATER, TANZANIA



A deep volcanic caldera hewn by an ancient eruption, Ngorongoro Crater teems with creatures. Expect lions lolling after a meal, cheetahs slinking through the grasses, flamingos turning soda lakes into a blur of pink, and sightings of rare black rhinos. Ngorongoro Crater Lodge commands a view of it all from its perch on the crater's edge. The three camps channel the elegance of a bygone era, with beaded chandeliers, silk curtains, and antiques. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer views of the caldera, and each suite comes with a private butler to stoke fires, run bubble baths, or bring you tea in bed. At night, discover fine dining beneath the stars.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 30 suites across 3 camps
- Mild weather year-round with wet seasons in March to May and November
- Children age 8 and older welcome; WILDChild program for kids available
- Three individually decorated sitting and dining areas
- Private butler service
- Safari shop

THINGS TO DO

- Spot predators, birds, black rhinos, and elephants on safari in the crater.
- Get to know the locals on a visit to a Maasai settlement.
- Visit Olduvai Gorge and Shifting Sands.
- Hike to the Empakaai Crater.
- Sip sundowners on the crater's rim.
- Meet Hadza people—hunter-gatherers who have long lived near Lake Eyasi.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

At andBeyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, meticulous service and an authentic safari experience are built on a commitment to protecting the local community and environment. The lodge's energy and sustainability efforts are monitored monthly, with impressive results: in 2015, it saved 10,820 gallons of fuel by reducing generator hours. To maintain and restore the surrounding habitat, the lodge has planted 55,000 trees in the past decade around local communities.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Visit the gardens of a local farmer who provides produce to the lodge, and learn about his everyday life over lunch. Then visit the nearby primary school with a member of the Africa Foundation.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SAYARI CAMP

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA



Set your sights on mind-blowing wildlife spectacles at this elegant lodge in the northwestern reaches of the Serengeti. One of the few permanent lodges permitted in this rugged region, it's perfectly placed for observing big game, as well as one of the greatest shows on Earth: the annual migration of wildebeest, a parade of more than a million creatures. Head out from your luxurious canvas safari tent to tuck into a candlelit dinner under the stars, enjoy a champagne breakfast in the bush in the company of giraffes, or swim a few laps in the pool to the distant sound of bleating wildebeest and zebras.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 15 tented suites with private verandas
- Two wet seasons in March to May and November; lodge closed April 5 to May 30
- Children age 5 and older are welcome
- Spa with a menu of massages
- Two tented dining areas, a bar, and a library
- Infinity pool and yoga deck
- Library and lounge with a fireplace

THINGS TO DO

- Track wildlife on foot during a guided walking safari.
- Venture into the bush in a safari vehicle for sightings of lions, giraffes, elephants, and more.
- Witness the incredible wildlife spectacle that is the great migration of wildebeest.
- Meet members of the Kuria tribe at Meruga village.
- See the Serengeti from above on a hot-air balloon excursion.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

One of the first lodges in the northwestern Serengeti, Sayari has set the standard for sustainable tourism. Its ultimate goal is to protect local communities and conserve the region's biodiversity. This goal complements the guest experience: you can expect top service, knowledgeable local guides and attentive staff, as well as incredible wildlife experiences. Through your safari experience, you're also helping to support the lodge's work with nearby schools, orphanages, and local training programs.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Head out on a game drive in the northern Serengeti before enjoying a lavish champagne breakfast in the bush with unforgettable views of the sweeping landscapes.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



RUBONDO ISLAND CAMP

RUBONDO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA



For a safari experience that's just outside the box, head to this captivating camp on the shores of the Rubondo archipelago. Scattered like seeds in Lake Victoria's southwestern reaches, the islands make up Rubondo Island National Park—the largest island-based national park in Africa. Its waters, swamps, and forests teem with wildlife, from elephants splashing in the shallows to chimps swinging through the trees. An adventurer's dream, this remote yet refined lodge offers myriad trips into the wilderness by boat, foot, jeep, and dhow. And nothing can prepare you for the jaw-dropping sunsets over Lake Victoria from your little patch of paradise.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 8 lakefront chalets
- Temperatures can fluctuate on Lake Victoria; lightweight layers advised
- Swimming pool
- Treehouse with veranda
- Fleet of boats, canoes, and a sailing dhow
- Massage services
- Lounge and restaurant open to the breezes off the lake

THINGS TO DO

- Set sail aboard a traditional dhow across Lake Victoria, or paddle a canoe to quiet inlets and coves.
- Spot crocodiles, monitor lizards, spotted-necked otters, and hippos submerged in reeds on a boat tour of the lake.
- Explore the marshes on Rubondo's western shores, looking for sitatunga and other creatures.
- Catch a glimpse of wild chimpanzees flitting between the trees on an excursion with resident scientists.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Rubondo has access to spectacular ecosystems, and its ace card is its wild chimpanzee population. A former wildlife refuge, Rubondo became home to chimps rescued from European zoos and circuses in the '60s. They were reintroduced to the wild alongside giraffes, elephants, and other native species. The camp and its parent company, Asilia Africa, are working to habituate the next generation of now-wild chimps to humans. Learn more at the on-site library and while tracking chimps with researchers.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Sail across to the mainland and head to a village with a local to visit the market and school and gain insight into everyday life here.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



OL DONYO LODGE

CHYULU HILLS, KENYA



Views of mighty Mount Kilimanjaro, fiery sunsets, and roaming elephants are all on offer at Ol Donyo Lodge. Hidden on a hillside near Kenya's southern border, this collection of thatched bungalows echoes traditional Maasai architecture and features private plunge pools, deep stone baths, and rooftop terraces with outdoor "star beds." Beyond your bungalow, there's hiking, biking, and horseback riding to enjoy in the beautiful Chyulu Hills, as well as eye-opening safari drives and close encounters with game at a nearby watering hole. This stunning camp is your base in a place where the landscape and the wildlife vie for your attention.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 8 thatched-roof suites
- Warm temperatures year-round, with rainy seasons from April to May and November
- Children age 5 and older welcome; the Young Explorers Program offers activities such as bush survival skills
- Large infinity pool, plus plunge pools at each bungalow
- Game viewing hide overlooking watering hole, perfect for photography

THINGS TO DO

- Get up close to elephants, giraffes, and leopards during safaris in 4x4 vehicles, or spot nocturnal creatures after sundown.
- Take lessons on tracking wildlife from expert guides on a walking safari.
- Explore the volcanic caverns of the Chyulu Hills.
- Learn about Maasai culture on a visit to a nearby village.
- Soar over Mount Kilimanjaro aboard a small aircraft.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Ol Donyo was conceived by conservationist Richard Bonham after he stumbled upon the ridge on which it's built and decided there and then to build a cottage and involve himself with the welfare of the local Maasai community. Several cottages later, National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Beverly and Dereck Joubert arrived on the scene. They implemented a conservation tourism model, ensuring the community has a stake in protecting its land by leasing it to the lodge owners.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Saddle up on horseback for a morning ride into the bush, stopping for an al fresco breakfast beneath acacia trees.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



MARA PLAINS CAMP

OLARE MOTOROGI CONSERVANCY, KENYA



Discover seclusion and an exceptional safari experience at a camp tucked away in the Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Remote and sophisticated, this clandestine retreat—bedecked with both colonial and Swahili design elements—is reached by a wooden walkway that passes through a tree and over the Ntiakitiak Rover. Explore the surrounding conservancy or Masai Mara National Reserve in a safari vehicle, witnessing some of Africa's greatest wildlife spectacles; learn about the Maasai culture; or simply take time out to spot game from your tent. Where else can you find such classic luxury between the branches of an acacia tree?

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 7 canvas tents
- Temperatures warm year-round, with rainy seasons from April to May and November
- Children age 8 and older welcome; younger children may be accommodated if a group books the whole property
- Professional camera equipment and Swarovski binoculars in each tent

THINGS TO DO

- Seek out wildlife on game drives in the legendary Masai Mara National Reserve and the private Olare Motorogi.
- Spot animal footprints, plants, and small creatures on a guided walking safari.
- Fly above the plains at sunrise in a hot air balloon before enjoying a champagne breakfast.
- Relax in the enchanting atmosphere of safari expeditions of old in your spacious tent—or in its deep copper tub.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Style and sustainability unite at this scenic lodge, where monkeys hang out on verandas and the distinctive bellow of hippos can be heard from your tent. With a light carbon footprint and strong ties with the local Maasai, Mara Plains Camp is an inspirational example of conservation tourism. Founded by conservationists and filmmakers Dereck and Beverly Joubert and their partners, the group's aim is to create lodges that will support local communities and cultures while conserving the area's flora and fauna.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. As dusk descends, take a walk through the bush with a private guide before enjoying sundowners beneath an acacia tree.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SARARA CAMP

NAMUNYAK WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY, KENYA



Set on a hill in the Samburu lands of northern Kenya, Sarara Camp began as a modest affair, designed to protect wildlife from poaching while generating income for the local community. It's evolved into a high-end retreat that invites visitors from across the world. Each tent exudes the romance of the African bush, with terraces that offer top-notch views of the peaks of the Mathews Range and the surrounding savanna. Watch for wildlife during a game drive or bush walk; soak in the infinity pool as elephants cluster at the watering hole below; and get to know the Samburu people.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 tents and 1 family cottage
- Closed April to June and October 15 to December 14; warm, temperate weather year-round
- Children of all ages welcome
- Infinity pool overlooking a wildlife watering hole
- Yoga classes and massages available
- On-site garden yielding fresh produce for lodge meals
- Log-pile viewing perch near watering hole

THINGS TO DO

- Take a nature walk in the bush with a local Samburu guide.
- Scour the plains for big game, as well as aardvarks and honey badgers.
- Spend a night sleeping under the stars, lulled to sleep by the sounds of the wild.
- During the dry season, enjoy a rare opportunity to witness the timeless Samburu ritual of singing wells.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

In the 1970s and early 1980s, the Mathews Range was a playground for poachers—and by 1985, the elephant population had dwindled significantly. Enter the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust, established a decade later to protect wildlife through a community conservation partnership. Sarara Camp was built a short while after to support the Trust—and the Samburu community—through sustainable tourism. Today, thousands of elephants—and plenty of other creatures—have returned to the area.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Head to the headquarters of the Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy for a behind-the-scenes tour. Meet rangers and get the inside scoop on conservation and anti-poaching efforts.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SEGERA RETREAT

LAIKIPIA PLATEAU, KENYA



Wildlife, history, art, and tribal traditions come together at the enchanting Segera Retreat in the heart of Kenya's Laikipia Plateau. Here, amid manicured gardens and a handful of beautiful villas, you can track patas monkeys with a researcher, gaze at elephants while enjoying a riverside picnic, examine letters written by the legendary explorer David Livingstone, and view artwork by some of the continent's top artists—all in a single day. The experience at Segera is a safari into culture as well as nature, and when you're not gazing at elephants or visiting a local beading workshop, the lodge provides a secluded and splendid retreat.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 elegant villas, as well as the Villa Segera and Segera House
- Comfortable and mild weather year-round
- Families welcome, and kid-friendly activities offered
- Saltwater pool and star deck with fire pit
- Spa with a double treatment room and steam tower
- Outdoor movie screen and open-air stage for performances

THINGS TO DO

- Join expert guides on game drives and bush walks, both during daylight hours and after nightfall.
- Learn about the everyday lives of the local tribes, meeting members of the Maasai, Samburu, Pokot, Turkana, and Kikuyu on visits to nearby villages.
- Embark on a helicopter excursion to explore the slopes of Mount Kenya and the Great Rift Valley.
- Sip African reds and whites in the intimate Wine Tower.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Wildlife, history, art, and tribal traditions come together at this enchanting retreat. Here, amid beautiful gardens and a handful of villas—and the iconic yellow biplane featured in *Out of Africa*—track patas monkeys with a researcher, examine letters written by explorer David Livingstone, and view artwork by some of the continent's top artists. From game drives to beading workshops, the experience at Segera is a safari into culture as well as nature.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Turn scientist for a day and meet researchers in the field as they work to protect the local population of the patas monkey, whose numbers have seriously dwindled in Kenya.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



TSARA KOMBA LODGE

NOSY KOMBA, MADAGASCAR



Tucked into the lush slopes of a dormant volcano on Nosy Komba island—one of the most beautiful of the Nosy Be archipelago—Tsara Komba Lodge is shaded by tropical forest and edged by golden beaches. Bask in the sun on a stroll along the sand or explore the forest with a guide to spot a host of wildlife, including macaco lemurs, chameleons, butterflies, and birds. Go beneath the waves on a diving or snorkeling trip for a close-up view of turtles, anemones, and colorful fish—plus larger species like manta rays and whale sharks. Top off your days with a revitalizing massage using Madagascan essential oils, and an unforgettable meal.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 6 Ocean View lodges and 2 Suite Ocean View lodges
- Warm and sunny year-round
- Massages and beauty treatments available
- Botanic Eden Garden, plus an Indigenous Nature Reserve adjacent to the property
- Restaurant serving locally sourced, slow-food-inspired cuisine

THINGS TO DO

- Spot whales, sharks, and whale sharks in the bay.
- Swim, snorkel and dive in the sparkling seas, amid a panoply of exotic marine life.
- Glide through mangroves and along the coast in a canoe.
- Visit a nearby fishing village to meet traditional embroiderers and woodcarvers.
- Encounter wild isles on a private boat ride and stop for a picnic on a deserted beach.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Most of the staff hails from nearby villages, and the lodge helps provide these communities with shelter, water, healthcare, and education. They have helped build and restore traditional wooden houses and play a key role in protecting the natural surroundings, including building a nursery for endemic baobabs and pachypodiums. The local community is invited to a party at the lodge every year—and the village pastor is sometimes called on to marry guests at Tsara Komba.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Join the management staff for a visit to a nearby village, where you'll meet the chief and learn about ongoing projects and everyday life in the community. Then return to the lodge for a local rum tasting.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

FREGATE ISLAND, THE SEYCHELLES



For an unforgettable encounter with the natural world amid knockout surroundings, this private island lodge is hard to beat. Along with the white-sand beaches and turquoise waters of your typical tropical idyll, Fregate Island Private harbors a host of unusual wildlife, granite boulders, and seas aswirl with marine life. Secluded villas dot the coast, each with a private veranda, dining pavilion, infinity pool, and hot tub. Step outside to find indigenous flora and fauna, from brilliant birdlife and giant tortoises to banyan trees, and discover the island's seven beaches. Or lie back in the spa before taking tea or champagne in the surrounding water garden.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 16 villas and 1 grand estate
- Warm year-round; May–September is dry with steady trade winds; October–May is wetter with calmer seas
- Families welcome; children age 3–12 can explore with the Castaway Kids club. Babysitting service available
- Freshwater pool, plus marina and yacht club
- Award-winning Rock Spa with gym and yoga studio
- Giant tortoise nursery

THINGS TO DO

- Head out on a nature trail, spotting rare birds and free-roaming giant tortoises—Fregate is home to the second largest population after the Galápagos Islands.
- Dive or snorkel off the island among kaleidoscopic marine life, including dolphins, manta rays, and whale sharks. PADI courses are available for all levels.
- Stretch out on the beautiful Anse Victorin beach.
- Bike through jungle to the isle's highest point, Mont Signal.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The Seychelles is an archipelago whose flora and fauna have evolved in isolation—and Fregate Island Private provides a fascinating insight into local efforts to protect the islands' unique species. Guests can assist with coral cultivation while exploring below the waves; help conserve turtles by monitoring nesting spots and hatchlings; and sponsor a baby tortoise or plant an endemic tree sapling. What's more, a portion of the lodge's proceeds goes towards supporting the island's precious ecosystem.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Turn chef for a day and pick ingredients from the resort's organic garden before enjoying a private cooking lesson with the resident chef.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS, MOROCCO



Kasbah Du Toubkal is an escape into the Moroccan hinterland—but it's the backstory that sets this charming lodge apart. The brainchild of two British brothers who stumbled across the crumbling kasbah in 1989, it went from ruin to resplendent retreat with Berber tradition at its core. The brothers' idea was to bring travelers to Toubkal National Park, where they could explore the region however they pleased—whether by strolling to local villages or embarking on an extreme climb to the summit of Jbel Toubkal. With trained guides on hand, and mint tea upon your return, this lodge is a welcoming base beneath the Atlas peaks.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

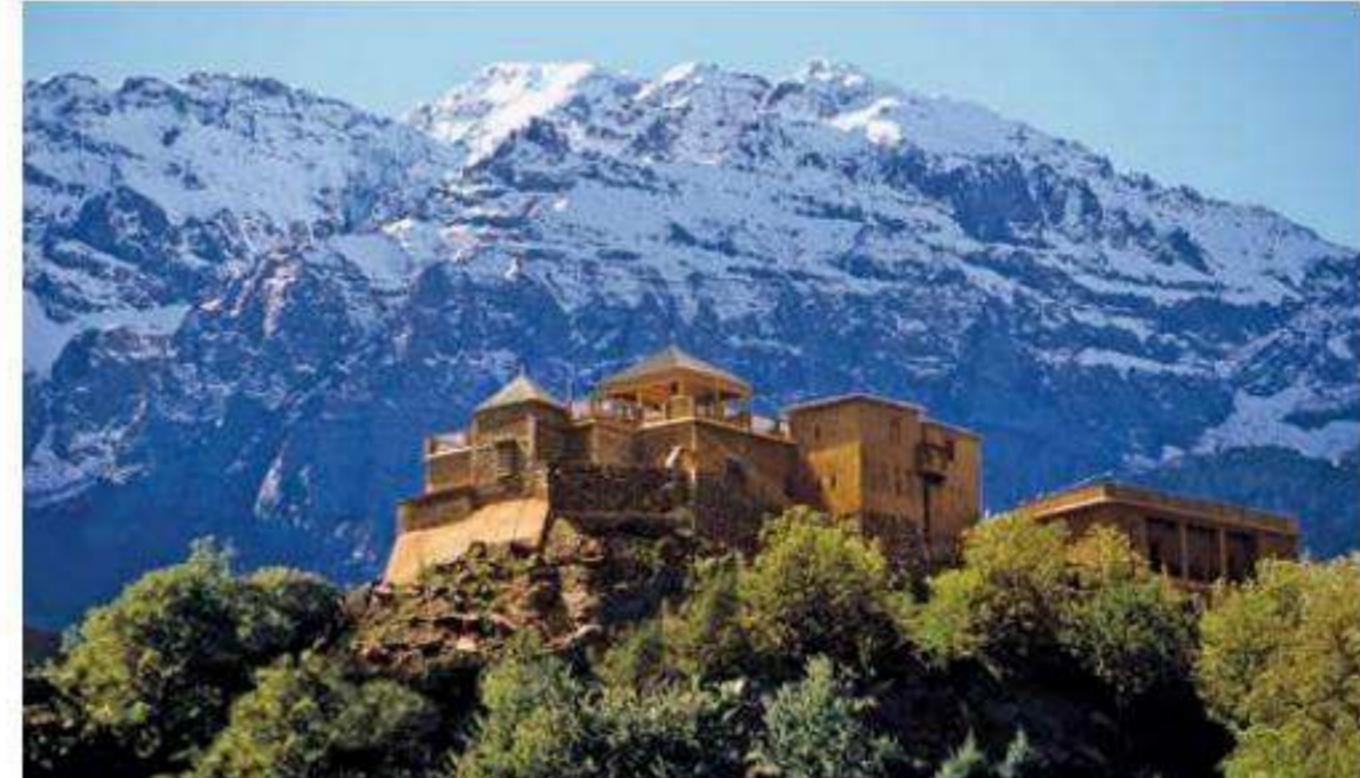
- 14 rooms
- Warm summers, and occasional snow in winter; located at 6,000 feet
- Families welcome
- Balconies overlooking valley and gardens
- Moroccan hammam
- In-house restaurant serving authentic Berber cuisine
- Mules that transport guests into town

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the Atlas Mountains with short, half-day, or full-day excursion options.
- Tackle Jbel Toubkal and reach the summit of this behemoth at 13,671 feet.
- Trek into a remote valley and stay overnight in the Kasbah trekking lodge.
- Sip traditional mint tea on the terrace, looking out over the valley and the sheer slopes in the distance.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Communities are at the heart of this retreat in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains—and, in fact, it was the Berber villagers who built Kasbah Du Toubkal by hand, transporting materials on the backs of their mules and transforming it into the award-winning retreat of today. From still-warm bread, kneaded and baked by a local woman in earthen ovens on site, to the decor and the distinctive welcome rituals, the Kasbah is a fantastic tribute to the Berber tradition and its people.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Live like a local and visit a village home with a member of the Kasbah staff to enjoy a mint tea and insight into local culture and community projects.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



THREE CAMEL LODGE

GOBI DESERT, MONGOLIA



In the midst of the Gobi desert, Three Camel Lodge sets an intriguing scene with its 40 gers (traditional yurts) scattered across the plains. Its mission? To celebrate the traditions of Mongolia's nomads, while preserving the wild landscapes of the Gobi and its mountains. This pioneering eco-lodge dishes up a range of authentic experiences for adventurous guests. Spend your days exploring on foot, by jeep, by camel, or on two wheels. By night, step out into the desert to go stargazing with the lodge astronomer, or swap stories with fellow travelers in the cozy bar—set in a temple-style stone lodge constructed without a single nail.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 40 hand-painted, traditional gers and a main lodge designed in the style of an ancient temple
- Open May to October, when weather conditions are mild
- Spa ger offering massage therapy
- Cozy lodge bar and a restaurant housed in a ger
- Evening cultural performances
- Library with books on the Gobi, and handicraft boutique

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the foothills and canyons of the Gobi desert, traversing them on foot, atop a camel, by jeep, or by bike.
- Delve into life in the desert and meet local nomads.
- Trek a short distance to glimpse ancient petroglyphs.
- Gaze at the night sky with an expert in astronomy.
- Visit the famous Hongoryn Els sand dunes.
- Search for fossils at the Flaming Cliffs with a paleontologist.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Three Camel Lodge is intrinsically linked with Mongolia's nomadic ways and the wild expanse of the Gobi—and poised to protect both through its conservation projects and community outreach. The guest experience is anchored in discovering why this mystical desert is such a treasure, and the lodge brings it home by introducing travelers to the wildlife, ecosystems, and people of the Gobi while providing an enchanting Mongolian retreat.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Enjoy a cooking lesson with the resident chef, go stargazing with a powerful telescope, or visit with a local nomadic family—the experience depends upon your chosen package.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



ZHIWA LING HOTEL

PARO, BHUTAN



Meticulously crafted to embrace Bhutanese culture and landscapes, Zhiwa Ling Hotel is a beautifully appointed retreat in the hills outside Paro. With its emphasis on artistry and spirituality, and a management philosophy based on the country's notion of Gross National Happiness, the lodge is a microcosm of the Bhutanese experience. Join monks for a Buddhist prayer ceremony in the lodge's temple, or learn traditional archery in the garden. Hike into the Himalayas to visit villages and shrines, explore the Tiger's Nest monastery, and take time out in the Tea House—all while soaking up Bhutan's enchanting culture.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 45 elegant suites with mountain views
- Open year-round; Paro Tsechu festival in March/April; mild weather May to September; January to February are cold
- In-house temple, Tea House, and Meditation House
- Spa with hot-stone bath and steam room, plus mediation sessions
- Greenhouse with rare orchids

THINGS TO DO

- Trek into the mountains on a variety of trails—from tough ascents to Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest) monastery to leisurely hikes to mountain villages.
- Explore Paro and nearby monasteries and dzongs.
- Spend a night camping in the Himalayas, enjoying catered meals and incredible stargazing.
- Roll your yoga mat out in the Meditation House, and gaze at the Tiger's Nest monastery as you strike a pose.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Painstakingly designed, hand-painted, and carved by local artisans, Zhiwa Ling is a fascinating feat of architecture that—despite being built in 2005—embodies the timeless traditions of Bhutan. Its temple, for example, was crafted using 450-year-old wood from the original Gangtey Goemba monastery, one of Bhutan's most important sites. That doesn't mean it's not traveler-friendly: amid all the exquisite details, Zhiwa Ling is fitted with plenty of 21st-century amenities and comforts.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Take part in a drum ceremony and butter lamp offering with Buddhist monks.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



BANYAN TREE RINGHA

SHANGRI-LA, CHINA



Break from China's hectic cities and head to a serene corner of the Yunnan Province known as Shangri-La. This is big sky country, where Himalayan peaks stand in the distance, rivers snake through valleys, and canyons beckon. It's the area's Tibetan roots, though, that are the main draw. Villagers are keen to share their traditions with guests of Banyan Tree Ringha, whether you wander into a temple, pop into a family home, or explore a historic monastery. These restored farmhouses bring Tibetan culture to life, and their classic decor and handwoven textiles coexist with modern touches to keep things cozy and comfortable.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

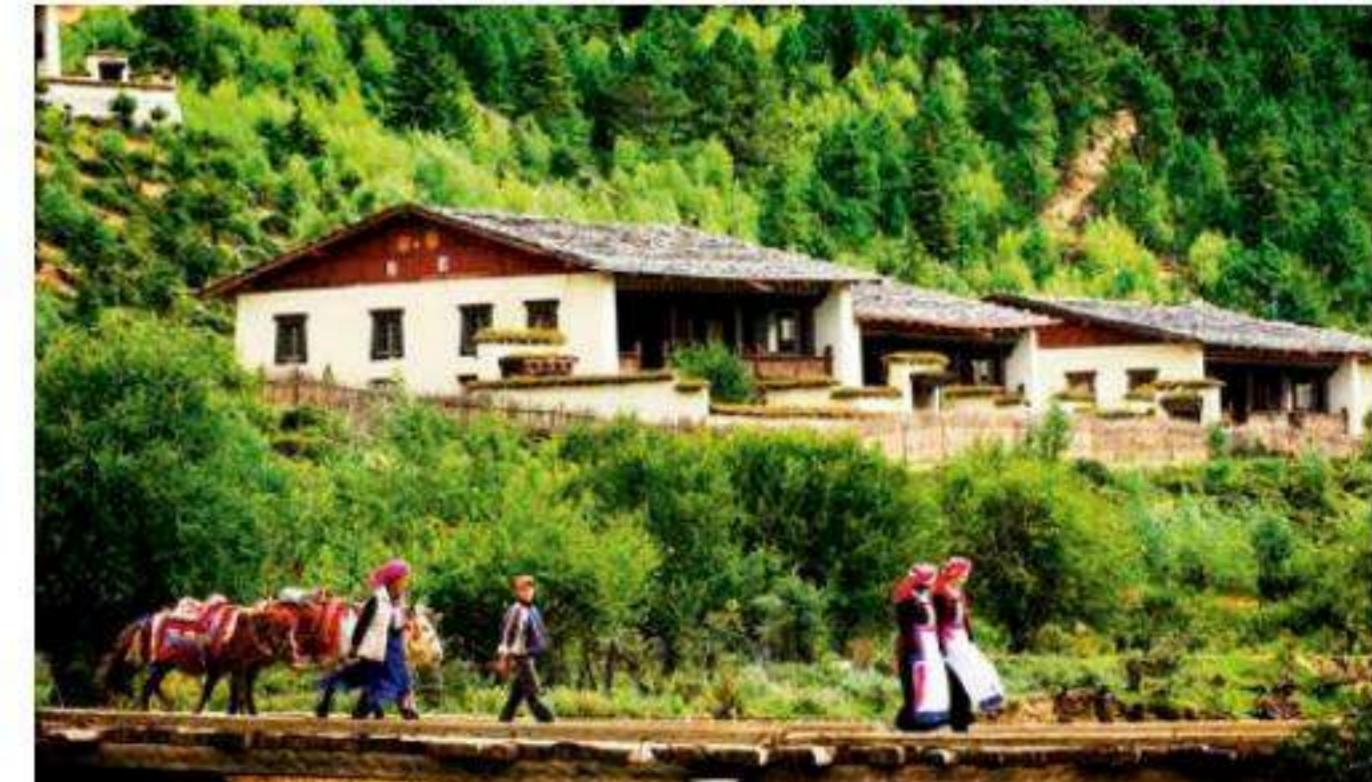
- 32 two-story rooms within 18 farmhouses, including 6 spa suites and 3 authentic Tibetan farmhouses
- At 10,000 feet above sea level, the sun can be strong year-round and snowflakes in summer aren't unheard of
- Children of all ages welcome
- Banyan Tree Spa
- Two restaurants, a bar, and a lounge, as well as a ger (traditional yurt)

THINGS TO DO

- Ride or hike into the countryside to temples and mountain villages.
- Head out with a guide for spectacular stargazing.
- Encounter warm Tibetan hospitality on visits to family homes in surrounding villages.
- Sit down to a traditional hotpot dinner in a cozy ger and then try your hand at Tibetan dance during a lively evening at the lodge.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Banyan Tree Ringha is a welcome encounter with ethnic Tibetan culture. The lodge ensures guests feel fully immersed in this fascinating way of life, from the textiles and furnishings in each room, to the delicious clay-pot dinners served up each day, to the warm hospitality of the local community that's integral to every stay. And that's not to mention the architecture: Banyan Tree Ringha incorporates century-old pieces in its stunning farmhouses, making it a destination in its own right.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. On a guided tour, stop off at the White Stupa to see a traditional Tibetan ritual and view the Ringha Valley from atop a mountain before rounding off the day at the ancient Dao Bo Si temple.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE

SABAH, MALAYSIAN BORNEO



Eco-minded and enchanting, Sukau Rainforest Lodge is a leafy gateway to encounters with wild orangutans, pygmy elephants, and proboscis monkeys. Sukau blends into the rain forest, connected by raised walkways that loop deep into the wilderness, and offering enough creature comforts to ensure a relaxing guest experience. With macaques swinging from trees and pygmy elephants trudging along the riverbanks, nature buffs can live out their fantasies on riverboat excursions and jungle walks. The lodge has ecological principles at its core, and a stay here contributes to conservation projects along the Kinabatangan River.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 20 rooms set along verandas
- Wet season from November to February; April to October is the main flowering season
- Riverside restaurant and Gecko Lounge, serving wine, beer, and cocktails
- Outdoor pool with sundecks
- Information gallery with resources on local wildlife
- Gomantong Hall for reading and relaxing

THINGS TO DO

- Get up close to monkeys, birds, and perhaps a Bornean pygmy elephant on the lodge's mile-long boardwalk.
- Take a boat trip down the river to search for orangutans, macaques, and langurs.
- Spot civets, sleeping birds, flying squirrels, and other nocturnal wildlife on a nighttime river cruise.
- Dine by candlelight on a riverfront terrace, taking in the view over a delicious meal.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

In the 1990s, as palm oil barons were clearing forests in Malaysian Borneo to make way for plantations, Albert Teo Chin Kion and Baton Bijamin pioneered the area's first ecotourism company and ecolodge. Their brainchild, Sukau Rainforest Lodge, is a bastion of sustainability, employing locals and working with communities to protect Sabah's natural wealth and cultural legacy. The experience at Sukau is defined by the owners' deep respect for the rain forest and its delicate ecosystems.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. As night falls, join a naturalist on a private cruise along the Kinabatangan River. Seek out wildlife asleep on the banks, spot nocturnal creatures, and see how the jungle transforms after dark.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



LIZARD ISLAND

GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA



The only development within a 2,500-acre sanctuary, Lizard Island is all about seclusion on the fringes of one of the seven natural wonders of the world. With a remote corner of the Great Barrier Reef reef just yards from the shore, you'll be perfectly placed to explore the turquoise waves, whether you want to snorkel, dive, kayak, or sail. The action doesn't stop at sea—Lizard Island's tropical forest is filled with birds and other species, and its dreamy white-sand beaches beckon you to squelch your toes in. From gardens of giant clams to beachside yoga at sunrise, the retreat is a fantastic gateway to the island and its ethereal reef.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 40 rooms with sea or garden views
- Tropical climate with consistently warm temperatures
- Children age 10 and older welcome year-round; those ages 6-9 welcome during specific family seasons
- Saltwater Restaurant serving fish and local produce
- Driftwood Bar and the more informal Marlin Bar
- Essentia Day Spa with a variety of nature-inspired treatments

THINGS TO DO

- Explore the creatures and corals of the Great Barrier Reef on dives and snorkeling trips.
- Hop in a motorized dinghy for a gourmet picnic on a secluded beach.
- Discover Lizard Island's flora and fauna on a nature walk.
- Cast away from shore in a catamaran and sail to Anchor and Watson's Bay.
- Spot underwater life through a glass-bottom paddle-ski.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

One of the world's first certified eco-lodges, Lizard Island has long served as a steward of the Great Barrier Reef and the island itself. From guided snorkeling outings to nature walks, the experience here instills a great appreciation for the ecosystems—and beauty—of this part of the world. Go diving or stargazing, learn about local plantlife, or take out a catamaran; the lodge naturalists will expertly help you explore both above and below water, all while maintaining a sustainable presence in the national park.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Set sail on a private sunset cruise over the Great Barrier Reef, sampling fresh seafood with your cocktails.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



LONGITUDE 131°

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA



You barely have to lift your head from your pillow at this lodge in the heart of the Australian outback to gaze at the ethereal behemoth that is Uluru. Each of the 15 tented pavilions is angled for extraordinary views of the sacred red rock. Head out with a guide to explore Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, and learn some of the creation stories of the Anangu people, whose heritage is interwoven with the iconic ancient rock formations also known as Ayers Rock and the Olgas. Watch Uluru's colors shift from orange to purple as the sun sets, and cap off your days with dinner under the stars overlooking Australia's spiritual heart.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 15 luxury tents with unparalleled views of Uluru
- Temperate desert climate year-round
- Swimming pool among sand dunes
- Elegant bar and restaurant for dining and rock-gazing
- Contemporary main lodge with dunetop bar and outdoor dining options
- Boutique featuring local handicrafts

THINGS TO DO

- Sit down to an al fresco cultural and culinary experience at Table 131°, taking in the music of an ancient people and sounds of the desert as you dine under the stars.
- Take a guided walk around Uluru and discover Mutitjulu Waterhole, the sacred site of Kuniya Piti.
- Examine rock art and sources of bush tucker at Uluru.
- Head into the sunset on a camel, or take a scenic helicopter flight.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The deep red monolith of Uluru is an ethereal presence—a reminder of the spiritual significance of the land to the indigenous Anangu people. Longitude 131° honors both this wonder of nature and the cultural heritage surrounding it. When this arc of glass-fronted tents was built, the ground was barely touched out of deference to local beliefs. From interactions with indigenous peoples to the endemic plants used in landscaping, this is a full immersion in the Australian outback.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Meet the lodge chef and discover how native ingredients are incorporated into the menu, before preparing bush tucker staples like dukkah, quandong jam, or the lodge's signature bread.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE

KANGAROO ISLAND, AUSTRALIA



Style and sustainability reign supreme at this lodge on the coastal cliffs of Kangaroo Island. Watch the surf from a beachside seat, marvel at the island's rugged landscapes and spot sea lions or rare kangaroo species. This is "Australia's Galápagos," where a host of endemic and unusual animals are waiting to be discovered with an expert guide. Come evening, indulge in a menu of locally sourced dishes and fine Australian wine. For a different angle, head to the lodge's plunge pool for spectacular views of this wild island—and the seas that reach to Antarctica. If it's a natural sanctuary you're after, Southern Ocean Lodge is hard to beat.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 21 suites with ocean views
- Hot, dry summers; temperate fall and spring; and cool winters from June to August, when wildlife is most active
- Signature Southern Spa that incorporates local products like lavender, honey, and mineral salts
- Restaurant with a walk-in wine cellar
- Lounge with fireplace and panoramic views

THINGS TO DO

- Take a tour of the island's natural icons: the Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, home to a fur seal colony.
- Walk among Australia's third-largest colony of sea lions at Seal Bay.
- Stroll the coastal cliffs above Hanson Bay.
- Stop for sundowners and canapes while spotting kangaroos at the historic island property of Grassdale.
- Head into the wilderness on foot or by bike.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

Perched on the cliffs of Hanson Bay, Southern Ocean Lodge is a spectacular tribute to the wild beauty of Kangaroo Island. Every angle of this remote retreat has been built with the location in mind, from jaw-dropping views of the surf and rugged landscape to its environmental ethos, which sees much of the food and energy locally sourced. And when it comes to exploration, the lodge's naturalists are experts at putting you in touch with the island and its inhabitants.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Discover the lodge's dynamic environmental plan with a guide before indulging in a private dinner for two in the wine cellar.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.





CAPELLA LODGE

LORD HOWE ISLAND, AUSTRALIA



At Capella Lodge, you'll be in for days of incredible outdoor adventures and pinch-yourself moments: waking up to the breathtaking sight of Lord Howe Island's twin peaks; beachcombing along gorgeous white sands; floating above rainbow-colored reefs; and tucking into barbecue lunches at the water's edge. This intriguing island is rugged and pristine, formed from a volcanic eruption millions of years ago. Go hiking with a naturalist, hit the waves with a surfboard, and spy endemic bird species. Back at the lodge, you'll find sophisticated cuisine; beach house chic décor; and ever-present views of Mount Gower and Mount Lidgbird.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 9 contemporary island-style suites
- Subtropical and mild year-round; the best time of the year for swimming is September to May
- Outdoor lounging areas with infinity plunge pool
- The best restaurant on the island, featuring foraged herbs, local produce, and fresh-caught fish
- Mountain bikes and snorkel gear available

THINGS TO DO

- Traverse the island on foot or by bike.
- Explore the calm azure waters of the lagoon by kayak.
- Dive below the surface with a snorkel and discover a kaleidoscopic reef just yards from the shore.
- Birdwatchers will relish Lord Howe Island's feathered populations, from red-tailed tropicbirds to boobies and noddies.
- Head to Blinky Beach to try your hand at surfing.

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

It's all about the great outdoors on gorgeous Lord Howe Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Whether you want to swim among schools of colorful fish, kayak on the world's southernmost coral reef, take a two-wheeled tour of the island, or bury your toes in the sand, Capella Lodge will act as the perfect host. The island is home to an astonishing range of unusual flora and fauna species—and welcoming no more than 30 guests at a time, the lodge is an intimate home from which to discover them.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Head down to Lover's Bay—the island's most romantic beach—to watch the sunset with cocktails and catered appetizers.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.



THE BRANDO

TETIAROA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Pape'ete

It doesn't get more exclusive than this. Set on the idyllic atoll of Tetiaroa, The Brando was once the retreat of Tahitian kings and later a private refuge of actor Marlon Brando. Today, it's the quintessential island paradise. Think white sands, turquoise waters, coconut palms, and technicolor marine life, plus flourishing ecosystems where tropical wildlife thrives. Underlying it all is an extraordinary model of sustainable technology. Immerse yourself in Polynesian culture and spend days floating through coral gardens gazing at schools of fish; or relax on beaches where the only footprints marking the sand are those of turtle hatchlings.

ABOUT THIS LODGE

- 35 elegant villas
- Dry season lasts from May to October; rainy season from November to April
- Children of all ages welcome
- Restaurant featuring award-winning cuisine and two bars: one on the beach and one in the treetops
- Varua Te Ora Polynesian Spa and seaside pool
- On-site environmental research station

THINGS TO DO

- Snorkel or dive among coral gardens, kayak the lagoon, hike or bike nature trails, and watch calving humpbacks from July to October.
- Channel your inner chef with a Tahitian cooking lesson.
- Learn to play Polynesian instruments and make crafts.
- Assist the Tetiaroa Society, collecting data on the island's bird population and the atoll's coral reefs.
- Watch nesting turtles at nightfall (November–March).

WHY WE LOVE THIS LODGE

The Brando was founded on the environmental vision of its forefather, Marlon Brando. Totally sustainable, it uses cutting-edge green practices—such as an air-conditioning system run on coconut oil and seawater—and invites guests to step behind the scenes to learn about the latest innovations. Guests can help collect data about flora and fauna they encounter for the island's Ecostation, which is managed by the non-profit Tetiaroa Society and carries out studies with leading researchers around the world.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

As a guest of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, you'll be treated to a complimentary exclusive experience. Meet a researcher for a behind-the-scenes tour of the lodge's Ecostation and discover its ongoing projects, including its sustainable fishing and sea turtle conservation initiatives.

To book this lodge, visit natgeolodges.com/unique or call +1-312-940-7404 to speak to a travel specialist.

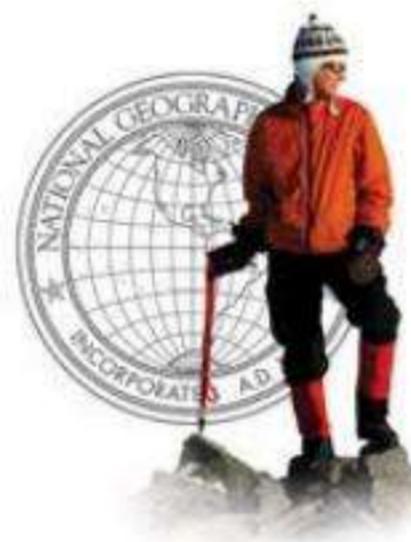


ROSALIE BAY RESORT, DOMINICA



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Cover images: Front cover, clockwise from top: Southern Ocean Lodge; Churchill Wild; Pacuare Lodge. Back cover, clockwise from top left: Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa; Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve; Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba; Lizard Island; Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort; Three Camel Lodge



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