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Award-winner

2 January 2022



Motherhood,
marriage
and reinventing
the female
action hero...

Why
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Before travelling, check the latest Government Covid guidelines at gov.uk/uk-border-control

Far-flung adventures

Plan to make up for lost holiday time with one of these bucket list-worthy escapes – from the wilds of Iceland to the depths of the Great Barrier Reef

Meliá Serengeti Lodge

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

Best for: wow-factor wildlife
The ‘watering hole’ at this 50-room lodge-style hotel looks out over the vast River Mbalageti Valley, and a frequent traffic of elephants, wildebeest and buffalo pass by below. Rooms are spacious with floor-to-ceiling windows, which make the most of the views. Brilliant guides are on hand to tell you everything about the culture.
Rooms from £350 a night, full-board; melia.com



Inkaterra Hacienda

Urubamba, Peru

Best for: off-the-beaten-track adventuring
Tucked away in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, this is the ideal stop-off after a Machu Picchu trek. It has a spa that uses all-natural products grown in the hotel's garden, plus it is on the site of an organic plantation, where farming is done using traditional hand tools and oxen. We toured the farm – which grows everything from quinoa to medicinal herbs – and picked produce for dinner.
Rooms from £350 a night, b&b; inkaterra.com



Hotel Aldan

Suðurnesjabær, Iceland

Best for: wild landscapes
This cosy, family-run hotel in a town in the mountains of east Iceland is surrounded by birch and willow trees and magical rugged scenery – there are 300 waterfalls in the vicinity. Rooms have stripped wooden floors, pretty yellow curtains framing those views and a good restaurant. It's also within easy reach of The Wilderness Center in Fljótisdalur, an excellent spot for stargazing and a good base for cross-country skiing.
Rooms from £73 a night; east.is



Joali Raa Atoll, Maldives

Best for: tropical bliss
This palm-fringed island is magical. You sleep in a private villa on stilts over the sea, there are hammocks for stargazing, white sandy beaches, and you're attended to by a private butler. Everything centres, naturally, around the ocean – colourful reefs are a short snorkel away and there's a marine biologist on hand to talk about the coral nurseries.
Seven nights from £6,279 per person, half-board, including flights; inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk





Orpheus Island Lodge
Great Barrier Reef, Australia

Best for: blow-the-budget magnificence
Even the build-up to reaching this island is unforgettable. It involves a spectacular 40-minute helicopter ride over the Great Barrier Reef. From the sky, look out for turtles, manta rays and reef sharks, as well as the striking-coloured reef. There are only 14 rooms, so even at capacity, it's as though you have 1,000 hectares of national park and beach to yourself. Service is impeccable and the vibe is laid-back, so no need to dress up for dinner. For all-out romance, book Dining with the Tides, a six-course dinner served on a jetty under the stars. *Rooms from £850 a night, all-inclusive including some activities; orpheus.com.au*



Solio Lodge Nyeri, Kenya

Best for: an intimate safari
There are only around 5,000 black rhinos in Africa, but this 45,000-acre Solio Game Reserve encourages natural breeding and rehabilitation – there are 50 on site. Safari guide Fred is brilliantly informative. Our hut had a fire, bath with a view and a highlight was opening the curtains each morning to see Mount Kenya in the distance and a herd of giraffes stroll by. *From £640pppn, full-board, including transfers, game drives and some activities; thesafari-collection.com/solio-lodge*



Swissôtel The Stamford
Singapore

Best for: slick hi-tech style
This is the place to take in the killer views of Singapore's skyscraper-packed horizon. Ultra-modern, the hotel has hi-tech 'vitality' rooms to help you recharge, smart circadian lighting that can be set to mood and, our favourite feature, an alarm clock that wakes you naturally using light to simulate sunrise. The in-room mini-gym is a bonus – work up an appetite for shrimp dumplings for breakfast. *Reopens for public bookings in March 2022; swissotel.com*



Polarized sunglasses, £170, **Serengeti** (serengeti-eyewear.com)



Linen shirt, £95, **With Nothing Underneath** (withnothingunderneath.com)



Floral shorts, £55, **& Other Stories** (stories.com)



Straw bag with cotton pouch, £130, **Muunfi** (muunfi.fr)



Leather sandals, £185, **Grenson** (grenson.com)

The Anam
Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam

Best for: world-class spa time
This resort, covered with tropical gardens, palm trees and with a private sandy beach, is hidden in an inlet in the South China Sea. The relaxed, 'no shoes, no news, no stress' ethos means there's nothing to do but unwind and pick which of the three pools to relax by. There's a superlative spa with Jacuzzi and steam room, and 10 treatment rooms – the sacred stone therapy is heaven. *Rooms from £105 a night, b&b; theanam.com*



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