

# 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,

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,



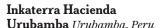


#### Hotel Aldan Suðurnesjabær, Iceland

full-board; melia.com

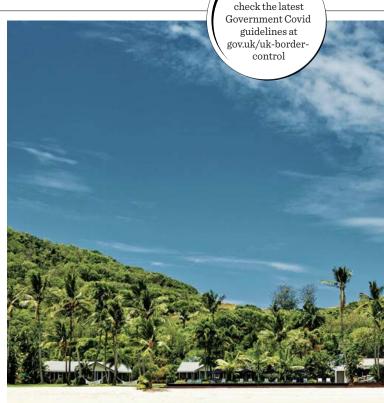
### Best for: wild landscapes

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 Fljótsdalur, an excellent spot for stargazing and a good base for cross-country skiing. Rooms from £73 a night; east.is



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





Before travelling.



**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



STELLA | 2 JANUARY 2022



# **Orpheus Island** Lodge

Great Barrier Reef. Australia

Best for: blow-thebudget 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 ravs and reef sharks, as well as the strikingcoloured 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; the safari 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



underneath.com)

WHAT

TO.

**PACK** 

Polarized sunglasses,

£170. Serengeti

(serengeti-eyewear.

com)

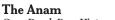
Floral shorts, £55, & Other Stories (stories.com)



Straw bag with cotton pouch, £130, Muuñ (muun.fr)



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



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





STELLA | 2 JANUARY 2022