

AMONG THE CANOPIES

EDWINA HART GOES BEYOND HER WILDEST CHILDHOOD FANTASIES TO DISCOVER LUXURY ESCAPES TAKEN TO NEW HEIGHTS.



ISLAND SECLUSION

Exotic getaways don't get much better than the lavish Treehouse Villas Koh Yao (treehouse-villas.com) on one of Thailand's remote islands in the turquoise-tinged Andaman Sea. Situated between the popular tourist destinations of Phuket and Krabi, Koh Yao Noi is a small tropical island of fishing villages, unspoiled beaches, coconut farms and vistas over the majestic limestone rock formations of Phang Nga Bay. Cross a suspension bridge to reach your two-storey treehouse

villa set in the jungle canopy. This adults-only retreat feels a world away from reality. You'll spend most of the time swanning around in your swimmers – flitting between the private outdoor hot tub and, with direct beach access, a dip in the ocean. Being hidden away on an idyllic island accessible only by boat doesn't mean one has to forgo the comforts of home either. The villas have wi-fi, satellite TV, a coffee machine and, of course, air conditioning. Plus there's in-room dining and spa treatments that can be enjoyed in the privacy of your very own treehouse.

CLIFF HANGER

The glamorous Tree House at Post Ranch Inn in California (postranchinn.com) is perched on the cliffs of Big Sur above the Pacific Ocean. Nature enthusiasts are sure to fall for the rugged beauty of this stretch of Californian coastline, with its wild beaches, hidden coves and spectacular state parks. The Post Ranch Inn treehouses are triangular, freestanding cabins built on stilts that soar 2.5 metres off the forest floor. The suites retain an outdoorsy ambience without compromising on luxury – there's a wood-burning fireplace and a glass skylight over the bed so you feel as though you are sleeping under the stars. An inclusive daily buffet breakfast is served at Sierra Mar, the resort restaurant with not-to-be-missed views over the ocean. Guided nature tours, yoga and stargazing sessions will keep you busy, but you can just as easily laze by one of the infinity pools soaking up that golden Californian sunshine.

Photo: Kodak Greenwood



CALL OF THE WILD

Experience the magic of an evening under the stars in a treehouse set amid African savannah. The Chalkley Treehouse (lionsands.com) in South Africa is available to guests of the Lion Sands game reserve in Sabi Sands who wish to truly elevate their safari experience. The treehouse is a soaring open-air structure built into a gnarled centuries-old leadwood tree. It's ideal for a couple, or even a solo traveller looking for some solitude. A double canopy bed is draped in mosquito netting and the deck is illuminated with the soft glow of lantern lights. Arrive at sunset for a gourmet picnic with unobstructed views across the bushveld, then spot wildlife at dusk before cosying up under the blankets to count shooting stars. Fall asleep to the sounds of wild animals carried across the still night air. There are all the creature comforts you'll need for a sumptuous stay, such as a bathroom with a double shower. Enjoy an early-morning breakfast before returning to the main camp where you can regale other safari-goers with tales of your night in the wild.

FIELD OF DREAMS

Bambu Indah (bambuindah.com) is an eco-chic resort a stone's throw from Bali's cultural heart of Ubud. The boutique hotel has 15 unique guest pavilions dotted along the Ayung River — some are hidden among the rice paddies, while others are nestled in the treetops or accessed by suspended wooden bridges.

The guesthouses are made from a combination of restored antique Javanese bridal homes and modern structures fashioned from local bamboo. One of the newest offerings is the Copper House, a secluded treehouse that's perfect for honeymooners. The cocoon-like structure is crafted from bamboo and features an open-air room (just picture those uninterrupted views over the valley) with a king-sized bed dreamily enclosed with a mosquito net, as well as a striking hammered-copper bathtub. Bambu Indah Kitchen prepares organic, farm-to-table fare — be sure to try the spice-laden regional specialities such as nasi goreng (fried rice). Fill your days with village hikes and yoga classes, or cool down by plunging into the natural spring-water pools.



BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Oualidia is a small village on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, known for its oyster farms, flocks of pink flamingos, surfing beaches and crescent-shaped lagoon. At La Sultana's sleepy seaside boutique hotel (lasultanahotels.com), there's a whimsical treehouse settled in a giant eucalyptus tree. One of the tree's main branches dramatically sweeps through the interiors, and a large window spans an entire wall allowing for dappled sunlight to stream in. Unwind with a cup of Moroccan mint tea on the spacious terrace, which comes replete with a hot tub. If you can be tempted to leave your lofty hideout, make the most of the five-star facilities such as a freshwater infinity pool, tranquil gardens and a traditional Moroccan spa (known as a *hammam*). There's a restaurant by the lagoon that specialises in seafood — order yourself a platter of freshly shucked oysters (after all Oualidia is known as the oyster capital of Morocco) and a crisp glass of wine from Val d'Argan, a local vineyard.



IN THE ARCTIC

In Finnish Lapland, the Arctic TreeHouse Hotel (arctictreehousehotel.com) is an enchanting arboreal residence sprawled along a steep hill. The shingle-tiled chalets elevated among snow-covered pine trees blend in with the natural landscape. The forest-inspired interiors are furnished with natural materials, as stylish Scandinavian design meets cosy cabin vibes. Vast north-facing windows allow for panoramic views of the wondrous northern lights that paint the Arctic skies. The beds are strewn with soft blankets and mock furs, and you can expect underfloor heating in the bathroom and showers with rainwater heads. The larger ArcticScene Executive Suite is best suited for families, with extra beds for up to three children as well as a family room, bathtub and sauna. While you're there you can visit a reindeer farm, go on a dog-sled safari or try your hand at ice fishing.



THE QUARTERS

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