

CARRIER

THE PAPER

05

CARRIER.CO.UK

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO MEANINGFUL LUXURY EXPERIENCES

LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Set the scene for romance

Italian elopements, Icelandic proposals and safari anniversaries

DINNER WITH A VIEW

From Bangkok to African Bush

Breathtaking landscapes for a meal you will never forget

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Milestone moments

Mark the occasion with the best birthday present you could ask for

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Magical discoveries in Lapland

The ethereal delights of the Northern Lights and sleigh rides





It's people who rise to the occasion.

Whatever you're planning: a reunion, a big birthday, an anniversary - there's often secrecy involved and surprises to be organised. Not to mention the imagination and creativity required to craft experiences that won't just make it special, but will leave a lasting imprint on someone's soul. How do you pull this off?

These kind of trips need the human touch, it's people who will make the real difference. At Carrier, in the hands of exceptional individuals your sojourns will be sensational, your escapades flawless and your occasions monumental.

Use our time to save yours and let us introduce you to places and people that quite simply will blow your mind.

CARRIER

Welcome to CARRIER, *The Paper*

Dancing to uplifting music at a beach party with friends. Spotting a rare leopard and her cubs on safari with a partner. Sharing stories with the family over wine and food on a warm summer's evening. These are experiences that we will never take for granted again.

The time to celebrate meaningful moments with loved ones is nearly here. We can almost feel it. Grandparents will be reunited with grandchildren to celebrate that missed first birthday. Couples will want to mark that golden wedding anniversary that came and went. And everyone else? Let's face it, we all just want to enjoy a precious holiday.

We've been planning special occasions at Carrier for many years. From making just 24 hours count with breakfast, lunch and dinner in three separate countries (p.19), to a private meeting with famed architect Bill Bensley (p.16) or backstage access to spend time with the cast of your favourite musical (p.10). We make it our mission to find out what drives your passions and interests, so we can curate surprises and moments that become the most cherished of memories.

We have an elite and extensive network of contacts, so you can access places that really are off the beaten track. Saddle up horses on a working cattle ranch pitched as an 'entertainment' lodge for multi-generational families (p.24), party on transparent paddleboards by moonlight (p.23), escape the crowds for the most private performance of the Northern Lights (p.26) or simply enjoy a much-needed family knees-up (p.22).

We've all come to realise that life is special, and it deserves to be treated as such.

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Luxury selection

WHAT TO LOVE AND WHERE TO BE RIGHT NOW



The Travel Accessory

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Ready or not, here we come

We've all been sitting around in leggings and tracksuits for far too long. Now's the time to embrace our personality from head to toe. Starting at the top, we're paying milliner Jess Collett a visit to try her hats out for size. Dress up for cocktails with an emerald trilly or soak up the sun in a wide-brimmed fedora. Her unisex World Traveller hat is our favourite – it folds up in your bag while you travel and pops up without a dent on arrival. Choose your trim to suit your destination, from neon pompoms for Belize to Aztec stripes for Mexico.



Jess Collett World Traveller, £120, jesscollettmilliner.com



HIDDEN TREASURE
Ensure your memories last a lifetime with an engraved gold-plated photo locket.
Celestial compass locket, £195, astleyclarke.com

TAKE NOTE
Deliver a secret hand-written message on this leather travel jewellery case.
Jewellery storage boxes from £95, stowlondon.co.uk



For a special someone

THE SURPRISE GIFT

Go that extra mile with a customised present

These tokens of love are small enough to hide in your luggage, but big enough to show you care. Customise each piece for that heartfelt touch.



PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT
From cards to mah-jong, Alexandra Llewellyn's hand-crafted marquetry boxes are sure to impress.
Bespoke games, POA, alexandralllewellyn.com

PICTURE PERFECT
Transform your favourite holiday memory into stylish beachwear.
Snap Shorts, £395, orlebarbrown.com



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Create a signature scent with Floris, London's favourite perfumery since 1730.
Bespoke scent, POA, floris.com

The Watch

TAKE A DEEP DIVE

Make a grand gesture to someone you love with Panerai's new diving watch, the Luminor Marina. It has been designed in partnership with world-record-setting free diver Guillaume Néry. While Néry has impressively dived as far as -126 metres, the Panerai can withstand -300. These are depths that the rest of us could certainly never reach in

one breath. "Everything changes when I go into the water," says Néry. Except the watch, he adds. "It reminds me I'm human and that I have to come back to the surface."

Panerai Luminor Marina 44mm Guillaume Néry Edition, £17,100, panerai.com





The Keepsake

TOP DRAWER

Let memories live on

This is the perfect gift for when you land back home. Anya Hindmarch creates unique bespoke boxes that can be passed on from generation to generation. Each compartment is inlaid with a photograph and individually labelled, and you can personalise it in your favourite colours, sizes and materials. It's a beautiful way to mark a milestone birthday or anniversary, with a handwritten message and a place to store precious mementoes. Put your order in early though, as they can take up to three months to create.

The Ultimate Box, POA, anyahindmarch.com

The Insider

SEIZE THE DAY

A simple message can be the best gift. Add one of these quotes to your next card to share the love and laughter



1
"If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun."
Katharine Hepburn

2
"Hear no evil, speak no evil, and you won't be invited to cocktail parties."
Oscar Wilde

3
"Life is a party. Dress for it."
Audrey Hepburn

4
"The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it."
Hubert H. Humphrey

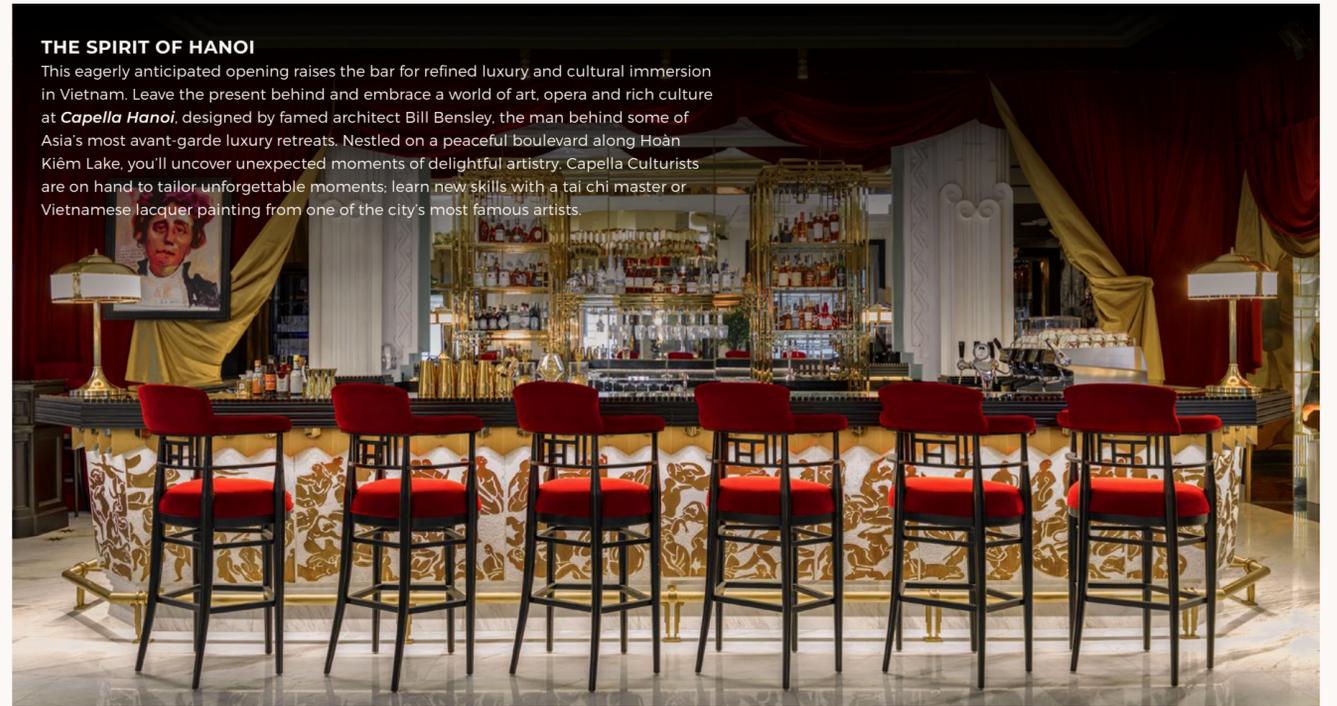
5
"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."
John Lennon

6
"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come."
William Shakespeare

7
"Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter."
Satchel Paige

THE SPIRIT OF HANOI

This eagerly anticipated opening raises the bar for refined luxury and cultural immersion in Vietnam. Leave the present behind and embrace a world of art, opera and rich culture at *Capella Hanoi*, designed by famed architect Bill Bensley, the man behind some of Asia's most avant-garde luxury retreats. Nestled on a peaceful boulevard along Hoan Kiem Lake, you'll uncover unexpected moments of delightful artistry. Capella Culturists are on hand to tailor unforgettable moments: learn new skills with a tai chi master or Vietnamese lacquer painting from one of the city's most famous artists.



PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN THE MALDIVES

If you thought you had explored the Maldives, think again. The Fari Islands, a four-island archipelago, are welcoming three new romantic getaways over the next 18 months. Every private pool and sea-view villa has been imagined by some of the best creative minds in the world - Kengo Kuma, the architect behind Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, is the mastermind behind *Capella Maldives*, whilst *Patina Maldives* has been designed by renowned Brazilian architect Marcio Kogan. Meanwhile at the *Ritz Carlton*, you can fall in love with the ocean under the expert eye of the Jean-Michel Cousteau Sustainability Program.



RETREAT TO UMBRIA

Umbria boasts more than its fair share of masterpieces and the *Reschio Estate* is certainly one of them. The spectacular 1000-year-old castle with just 36 rooms creates a vivid and intimate setting for a family gathering. Whimsical and effortlessly stylish, the estate transports you to a bygone era. Spend days together exploring the rolling hills on foot or by horse and, as the sun sets, dress up for a dinner party that exudes Italian glamour. The Palm Court can become a lively bar for pre-dinner cocktails, whilst the courtyard boasts perfect acoustics for operas, private concerts or recitals.



SET SAIL AGAIN

The world's largest square-rigged sailing ship *Tradewind Voyages* is about to embark on a monumental trip. From the enchanting Nordic fjords to the beauty of remote Australia, it's the ideal way for any thalassophile to celebrate a milestone or mark an occasion. A near replica of the 1913-built ocean vessel *France II*, the ship marries the charm of sailing with modern luxury. Clever engineering means the cruise liner is powered by nature whenever possible, using sails, without propulsion, for around 70% of each journey.



The News Flash

TRAVEL UPDATES

Celebrate special occasions with extra-special trips



BOTSWANA'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Powered by the sun and completely plastic free, the new *Xigera Safari Lodge* occupies a remarkable location in the heart of the Okavango Delta. This lodge is shaping the future of sustainable safaris and clearly making its mark in luxury travel. For a birthday like no other, explore all the abundant wildlife this UNESCO World Heritage Site has to offer, safe in the knowledge that this delicate ecosystem in Botswana is being safeguarded for future generations. Local guides can introduce you to Motialepula the local leopard or help you spot lioness Sisilia and her four cubs.

LIFE LESSONS WITH
NISSA OLE KINYAGA



Nissa Ole Kinyaga is one of only 59 silver guides in Kenya, working at Lengishu, an exclusive-use family home in the heart of the 32,000-acre Borana Conservancy, the country's newest and most successful rhino sanctuary. Nissa, of the Masai clan, grew up in the Mkogodo Forest, starting out as a radio signaller at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and then enrolling at the Kenya Utalii College for an advanced tour guiding certificate. After studying advanced ornithology, walking wild safaris, astronomy, and first aid, he became a full-time safari guide in 2002. We find out more about what it's like to work side by side with African wildlife.

What is so unique about the Borana Conservancy?

Borana is all about conservation. The Dyer family, who founded the eco-lodge, started at a time when rhino poaching was at its worst and sanctuaries were closing. They built secure habitat for the rhinos and continue to put their revenue towards conservation costs to protect these animals for future generations. This means a lot to me as Borana has always been my neighbour and I am passionate about conservation. It's wonderful that I can provide for my family doing what I love.

What makes a game drive on Borana Conservancy so special?

Seeing wildlife in their natural habitat never gets boring. It's just you and 32,000 acres of wilderness, with the option to do as little or as much as you please; be it on foot, by car, on horseback, by helicopter or fixed-wing aeroplane. You can also fish for trout on high altitude lakes, mountain bike through herds of zebra, walk with rhino, race through sand rivers on quad bikes or spend the afternoon with a pride of lions. Unique to Borana, we track rhino on foot at dawn, enabling guests to get a hands-on experience of conservation.

How important is conservation to you?

It is so important to see wildlife numbers increasing in a natural and safe habitat. The revenue from tourism on Borana Conservancy goes towards the local communities and livelihoods. We educate guests about conservation out in the field while showing them endangered species and how to preserve habitats. I love sharing knowledge and success stories with younger generations.

In the evenings, guests have the opportunity to join the team of anti-poaching rangers on a drive around the conservancy. This gives guests the chance to spend quality time with the rangers, ask them questions, share stories and get a better understanding of their way of life.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy spending time with all the animals, particularly the leopards and wild dogs. Every day I am thankful to be surrounded by such beauty in the rough mountainous terrain with its deep valleys and riverine. But mostly, it's knowing that my job has purpose, that I am making a difference every day in the work I do here at Lengishu.

What is your biggest piece of life advice?

Always be honest, help others, travel sustainably, and share the importance of conservation with younger generations as much as possible. And visit Northern Kenya; it is paradise – one of the most exciting and adventurous parts of Africa.



PERFORMANCE WITH PURPOSE

AVAILABLE ON TUMI.COM, TUMI REGENT STREET

Unbreakable bonds

Time. It's played some strange tricks on us recently. It's sped up, slowed down and, on occasion, even seemed to stand still. For many of us, adjusting to this new rhythm (one that runs to the beat of video calls and home schooling) means that the bonding experiences that typically bring families together – sharing new discoveries, places, sights and smells – have been few and far between

Words: Lauren Romano

As we begin to (tentatively) re-emerge into the wide blue yonder outside of our own four walls, a holiday that takes into account the interests of the youngest members of the family can help all generations to reconnect. Whether they want to live out their *Swallows and Amazons* fantasy of sleeping under canvas in the desert hinterland or slalom down powder-dusted peaks, personalised experiences can help instil important life lessons, where children are fully engaged to try new things, experiment and investigate nature. Being immersed in these moments together forges deeper, more emotional connections with one another.

So carve out a little time together to celebrate those exam results, becoming a teen or embark on one last adventure together; here's five ideas to get you started that offer far more than innovative kids clubs and sporting academies.

ALL THE DRAMA OF THE BIG APPLE

From lavish opera at the Lincoln Center, to Tony-award winning musicals on Broadway and edgy underground productions in Brooklyn dives, *New York* is an eclectic epicentre of performing arts. The skyscraper-silhouetted city comes alive at night when it transforms into one grand stage, so where better to inspire a budding star's creativity?

Your itinerary could involve front-row seats at *Hamilton*, followed by a meet-and-greet with a lead actor from the cast. Or – to really get under the city's skin – a bus tour with *The Ride*, an immersive travelling theatre that does the rounds of New York's most famous landmarks with a troupe of actors in tow (which should help bring to life that infamous line in their GCSE copy of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*: "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players...").

After the curtain call, allow yourself to get swept up together in the crowds, colours and intoxicating aromas of the city's diverse neighbourhoods, from Chinatown to the Upper East Side, all the while thriving off the energy, enthusiasm and dream-weaving the Big Apple is renowned for.





ONE FINAL HOLIDAY HURRAH

The final holiday before the kids fly the nest is something of a last chance saloon; as your ultimate opportunity to impart some wisdom, it calls for a truly once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

Cue *New Zealand*. It's a blockbuster of a destination: sublime forests, rugged coastline, enthralling Māori culture and other-worldly glaciers that possess a mysticism of their own.

Speaking of blockbusters, mention the country, and more often than not *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies will spring to mind. That's because back in the late 90s, Sir Peter Jackson stumbled upon a sheep farm in the heart of the Waikato region and transformed it into 'The Shire' of J.R.R. Tolkien's fictional Middle-earth.

Today, the surrounding area remains as untouched as it was then; with no power lines, buildings or roads in sight, you can fully immerse yourself in the magic of the landscape on a tour of the film set left behind after *The Hobbit*. Let your imagination run riot amid the undulating 12-acres of greenery, pock-marked by Hobbit Holes and framed by the mighty Kaimai Ranges tiptoeing up to touch the horizon. Rather than using a camera to capture the moment, however, commit it to memory. You'll be left feeling humbled by the untameable beauty of nature – and with shared souvenirs of a place that no photo will ever do justice.



MARKING A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If your child is a Bear Grylls in the making, throw them a birthday celebration to remember by glamping in one of the USA's national parks. With deep gorges, jagged plateaus and glassy lakes, the national parks of *Utah*, *Arizona* and *Wyoming* offer front row seats to viewing nature at its most spectacular, allowing everyone to revel in the freedom of being outdoors and connected to the earth, rather than glued to a screen.

From the dusty russet-toned North Rim of the *Grand Canyon* to Lake Powell, a flooded canyon where water licks its way into every crevice, budding young hikers, climbers and bikers will be floored by the magnificence of landscapes where their voices ricochet off rockfaces to be engulfed in deafening silence.

Head into the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, one of the most photographed landmarks in the US, to see its magnificent crimson red sandstone towers with heights of 1,000 feet. It's here you can visit the Four Corners Monument, the only place in the country where four states intersect at one point. Later on, step back from the lens and take in the scenes at Arizona's two largest ruins – Betatakin and Keet Seel – to see how people lived more than 900 years ago.

Now more than ever it's moments of connection like these that we all crave – with each other, with our surroundings and with the present. When it comes to building and cementing bonds as a family, let the younger generation take the lead and feel included. It can help pave the way to thrilling discoveries that enable you to learn from each other long after you return home.

BONDING ON- AND OFF-PISTE

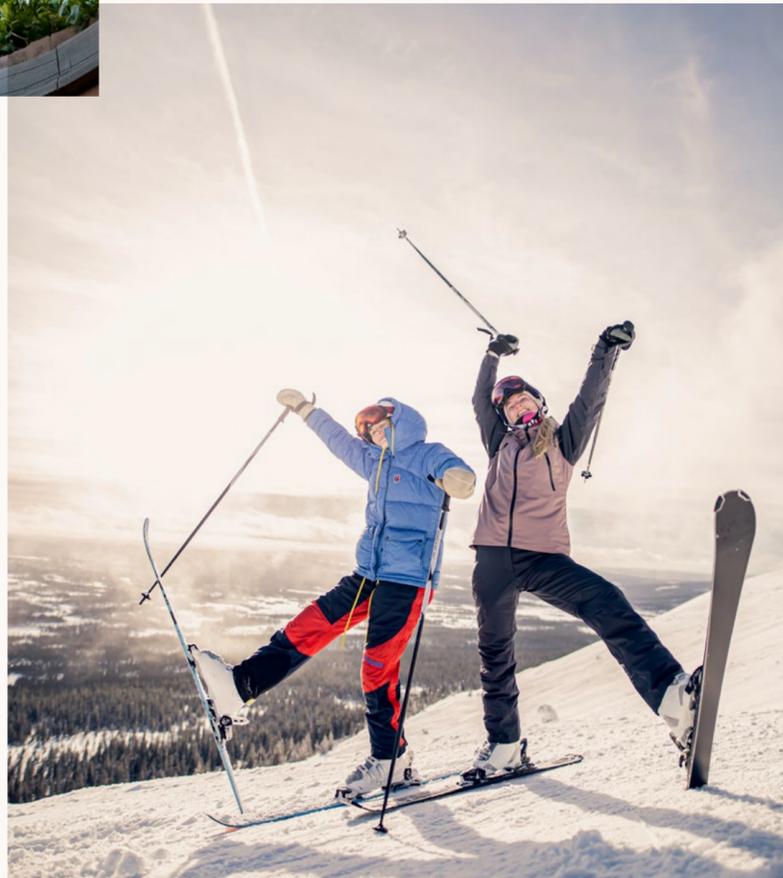
There's nothing quite like a shared adrenalin rush to bring parents and older children together. If it's exhilaration you're after, then Whistler's magnificent peaks should suffice.

The lofty vantage points of this acclaimed ski resort will help clear minds, giving you both the physical and metaphorical space to set the world to rights before psyching yourselves up to hit the runs.

There's something nostalgic about embarking on a skiing trip with grown-up children, but to create experiences firmly rooted in the present, enlist an Olympic instructor to help you navigate the pic'n'mix of terrain, all the while sharpening your senses and encouraging each other to push yourselves further.

If that fails to impress them, up the cool factor a notch by taking a turn in a two-man bobsleigh. Negotiating the exhilarating ice speed, while crammed into a steel pod, will no doubt prove to be a fun lesson in teamwork and communication. A story they'll no doubt share with their children one day.

Nestled in upper Whistler Village, *Fairmont Chateau Whistler* will elevate your bonding experience even further, with Snow Hosts on hand to cater for your every whim. This includes serving up steaming hot chocolates slope-side, so you can continue the heart-to-heart and goad each other with old rivalries about who's the better skier (which will be your prompt to remind them that you taught them everything they know).



ENHANCE YOUR POSTNATAL WELLNESS

While filled with joyful moments, the first year of motherhood can also be overwhelming and exhausting. If the sound of a full night's sleep, improved hormone health and a little time alone to restore your sense of vitality has you raising your hand with a 'where do I sign up?', then you're in need of Cocoon & Bloom.

Andalucian coastal haven the *Marbella Club* has created the postnatal wellness programme designed to aid mothers to reconnect with themselves on a three-day nurturing and healing experience. The private and personalised programme will focus on your hormone health, relaxation and nutrition, with tailored sessions to combat feelings of anxiety and exhaustion. Each retreat is crafted to fit your lifestyle, so the theory is that you'll be able to introduce these new practices into your everyday routine back home. You'll leave feeling reinvigorated and better equipped to deal with whatever motherhood throws your way.

Until then, everything is geared up to help you have the most relaxing stay possible, from eight hours of childcare provided by a team of qualified nannies to a complimentary laundry service for newborns. There's something for expectant mums too. You can concentrate on restoring balance with a Sleep-Inducing Ritual at the Thalasso Spa to ease fatigue and quieten the mind. The peacefulness emanating from your treatment should (hopefully) invoke a sense of inner calm in your baby, and help you both to nod off listening to the sound of the waves lapping at the shore.





Dinner with a view

The tinkle of glasses, the trickle of laughter and plates of local delicacies; sharing stories over wine and fine food as the sun sets has to be one of the most soothing parts of travelling. Imagine this scene but move your table to the most breathtaking landscapes for a meal you will never forget

Words: Hannah Lemon

A BANQUET IN THE BUSH

Dinner time takes on a whole new meaning in *Kruger National Park*. While you're busy spotting the big five out on safari at *Lion Sands Game Reserve*, tables are being set up by the river for a magical surprise on your return. The fire is lit, lanterns light the way to your table, and the starry sky provides an evening spectacle. The chefs, who cater for every allergy, taste and appetite, will cook up a braai (barbeque), with all the colour and flavour of local ingredients.



ARABIAN NIGHTS

Hidden among the golden sand dunes of *Oman* and the *UAE* are *Magic Camps'* eco-chic tents – and they're waiting for you to arrive after an exhilarating sand dune drive. Surrounded by flickering lamps, this luxurious desert camp has been set up just for you. Get ready to indulge

in legendary Arabian hospitality, leaving the real world far behind. The chef's gourmet recipes of marinated fish and barbequed lamb infused with spices will whisk you away into a heady culinary scene. There's just as much fanfare for breakfast; fresh juices, Arabic flat breads and eggs freshly cooked to order will ignite your love for this five-star oasis.



STORY TIME TRADITIONS

In the heart of *Namibia*, the tradition of dinner in a boma is a must. After discovering majestic scenes of elephants and ancient rock carvings during the day, get comfortable as a hush descends at *Damaraland Camp* in the evening.

A boma is an enclosed space where people come together to share food, stories and listen to entertainment. Drinking fine wines and gazing into the crackling fire are just the finer details to a memorable evening spent here under the clear night sky – an evening that's all about the coming together of people.

MICHELIN-STARRED FORAGING

Rosa Alpina's Michelin-starred restaurant *St. Hubertus* is moving up to an altitude of 2,000m for a Sunday lunch that is like no other. With no electricity, the restaurant is going back to its roots, reconnecting to nature and the landscape. A meal here starts with an early morning walk up the mountain with the chefs to learn about the flora and fauna along the way. Forage for ingredients, uncovering plants, herbs and wild mushrooms before you reach the cabin at the top. A well-earned aperitivo will be waiting for you on arrival, followed by a five-course tasting menu packed with all the treasures you found on your hike.



STEP BACK IN TIME

The water temples of *India* are known as step wells due to the steps leading to the water, which was much needed during times of drought. *Rawla Narlai Luxury Heritage Hotel* takes you on a journey back in time with a secret space around an 18th-century step well, brining to life these

ancient stories with ethereal lanterns and the vibrant chants of a jogi. You'll be served up the delights of a traditional Rajasthani thalis banquet, infused with rich local seasoning. Dive into a set menu of meat with the fire of red chillies, deep fried cottage cheese dumplings simmered in rich cashew gravy, and green vegetables seasoned in Rajasthani spices.



A BANGKOK DINNER WITH BILL BENSLEY

People often ask who would be the best guest to a dinner party, and, for us, internationally acclaimed and larger-than-life architect and designer Bill Bensley always comes to mind. He has masterminded the design of over 200 hotels in more than 40 countries, exploring Asian culture and working with local people to deliver the most amazing retreats. You can spend the evening with him and his partner Jirachai Rengthong in the stunning surroundings of their *Bangkok* oasis, *Baan Botanica*. Lively conversation will continue until the wee hours of the morning, as you learn how he navigates his passion for design and sustainability.



FIELD OF LIGHT, FEAST OF DELIGHT

As darkness falls on *Uluru*, the massive sandstone monolith in the northern territory of central Australia, 50,000 coloured glass spheres gently come to life. The illuminating field of stems creates an energy, heat and brightness in the desert that has to be seen to be believed. This mystical work of art, *Field of Light*, was created by the internationally celebrated artist Bruce Munro. It's in this fantasy garden that you can escape with canapés and Australian sparkling wine, followed by a delicate bush tucker dinner of local delicacies including kangaroo, emu and crocodile, and salads mixed with Indigenous ingredients.

short on time, big on
SURPRISE

In a world where we can have almost anything we desire delivered to us in mere hours and experience faraway lands through the screens in our hands, it takes extraordinary expertise to create something that can dazzle and delight us — and etch the moment in our memories forever



ACCESS ALL AREAS

A certain song or even an opening riff can make some people's heart miss a beat. So what happens when they secure the most coveted concert tickets in the world, skip the queues and are part of a huge cultural moment? Surprise a fan with the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see their favourite band live — a remarkable moment in history — made exceptional as soon as they touch down in the city where they are playing. We can ensure that the familiar sound of the band's hits are played in the suite on arrival to build excitement, before their tickets to the exclusive event are revealed. Now, every time they listen to that song, they'll be enveloped by the warmth of what it felt like when the whole of the city seemed to be in on the surprise.

Words: Marianne Dick

It's the out-of-this-world moments in life — imagined by those who know us best — that we revel in for years to come. But it's often difficult to make time in our modern world to create them. However, in just 24 hours a simple idea can transform into a dream escape. These unexpected rides take us up, up and away from our everyday routines, and remind us of the incredible joys that the world can offer us, if we're brave enough to seek them. They're made even more moving and romantic by the input of their careful curators — our loved ones. A trail of personal touches and happy accomplices make a spontaneous getaway truly outstanding. When the perfect moment presents itself and motivation strikes, here are three ideas for an impulse escape with a lasting impression.



A WEEKEND IN CHAMPAGNE

A five-star, champagne-filled birthday stay in **Le Bristol Paris** is elevated to unforgettable heights with the addition of a surprise private trip to Ruinart's vineyard, the home of the oldest established champagne house. A first-class train ride from the capital can transport you through the French countryside that unfurls like a Monet painting, evoking the romance and adventure of traditional rail travel. Ruinart's atmospheric chalk quarries, which were named a historical monument in 1931, are normally closed to everyone. This time, however, they're not. We have the key to unlock an ethereal one-on-one tour run by a professional sommelier, who can select vintages according to the most sophisticated of palates. We can curate a personalised food pairing, where fantasy dishes are brought to life on a menu that can be framed and kept forever.



Ruinart's chalk cellars



Le Bristol Paris, France



“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

THREE COUNTRIES, 24 HOURS

Have you ever travelled to three countries in 24 hours? Begin with a sumptuous hotel breakfast in **Monaco** — coffee, pastries, fresh fruit and all kinds of eggs can be devoured while wrapped in the softest of dressing gowns. Surrounded by super yachts, set up home on a floating island paradise: think swimming pools that transform into dance floors, infinity pools that flow into the ocean, and a cinema screen projected against the backdrop of a star-studded night sky.

The next stop, via a surprise trip in a helicopter, is Italy. In a world where travel has become less about the journey and more about the destination, you can revive the glamour of voyage. Skip queues and security checks to make the most of the journey — the sights and surprise of air travel will leave you giddy with excitement. Land in **Liguria** where colour fills the senses,

from the azure sea to the picture-perfect pastel buildings of the fishing villages. The stalls of the local markets will entice with seasonal produce that calls out to be touched, tasted, and taken home.

The excursion ends with a feast in the South of France: a Michelin-starred restaurant in glittering **Nice** or charming **Eze**, a medieval village perched on a hilltop. When fine fare is the centre of a foodie's world, sensational gastronomic memories — from the taste of freshly-caught lobster to the scent of just plucked lemons — never leave them.



Le Mas Candille, Mougins, France

Love's great adventure

From fairytale first holidays to enchanting anniversaries, these places set the scene for your own epic love story

Words: Marianne Dick



One of the greatest effects of being in love is that the everyday can suddenly feel wonderful. Grey clouds shimmer with silver linings and simple tasks seem full of adventure. Travelling beyond one's own corner of the world is made even more remarkable when experienced with a loved one.

First holidays together feel like movie montages: the ecstasy of passion is intensified by fine food and exquisite wine, foreign climates, and divine hotels where every need is catered for. **Italy** – the setting for *Romeo and Juliet* no less – is undoubtedly one of the most romantic destinations in the world. One minute you might be staying in a converted castello nestled among the rolling emerald hills of Tuscany, and the next, you're surprising your partner with a private helicopter to Andrea Bocelli's annual concert in his hometown of Lajatico. The feeling of awe, as you perch on the front row of the spectacular

open-air amphitheatre, the Theatre of Silence, is hard to beat.

From first date to proposal, no detail should be overlooked. Cut yourself off from the rest of the world in a private Lagoon Suite, nestled on the edge of the ethereal Blue Lagoon in **Iceland**. Popping the question here would be truly magical. A diamond ring that is inspired by the beautiful glaciers and stunning crystal ice caves of the Nordic island will hold so much more meaning. Particularly when it's delivered on

bended knee next to your own personal sapphire-coloured lagoon.

And then the honeymoon. The start of the most extraordinary journey of your lives – and it begins on The Orient Express to **Venice**. One of the most illustrious ways to travel, it seems the apt way to mark your send-off together in a private cabin with a personalised bottle of Tattinger and a custom-made honeymoon cake. Polished wood, gleaming brass and sumptuous soft furnishings will whisk you away to the

golden era of railways, with black-tie dinners and decadent breakfasts. From Paris to the painterly landscapes of the Swiss Alps whizzing past the window, a train ride gives you ample time to slow down and appreciate time with your partner after the fanfare of the big day.

Through sickness and health, couples who mark milestone anniversaries have much to celebrate, but it's hard to find an experience that truly matches how grateful you are. A **Kenyan** safari is a good place to start. Reimagine another great love story, with an 'Out of Africa' picnic at Angama Mara – a lavish spread set atop a hill overlooking the setting of the classic Hollywood film starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

Take this time to renew vows with a blessing from Maasai elders as the sun sets behind majestic baobab trees. Rejoice as maidens and warriors dance and sing, and decorate you in traditional beaded jewellery, full of the colours and zest of African life.

Seize the moment and celebrate your own, inimitable love story – no matter which chapter you're up to

Access granted in Asia

When it comes to special trips, Asia is often top of the list. Chaotic and modern, spiritual and spellbinding, it has an intoxicating mix of culture, food, and unique experiences. But you can discover a whole new world that goes beyond the tourist traps. With private access, meet knowledgeable experts and real locals to create meaningful connections and a more authentic perspective

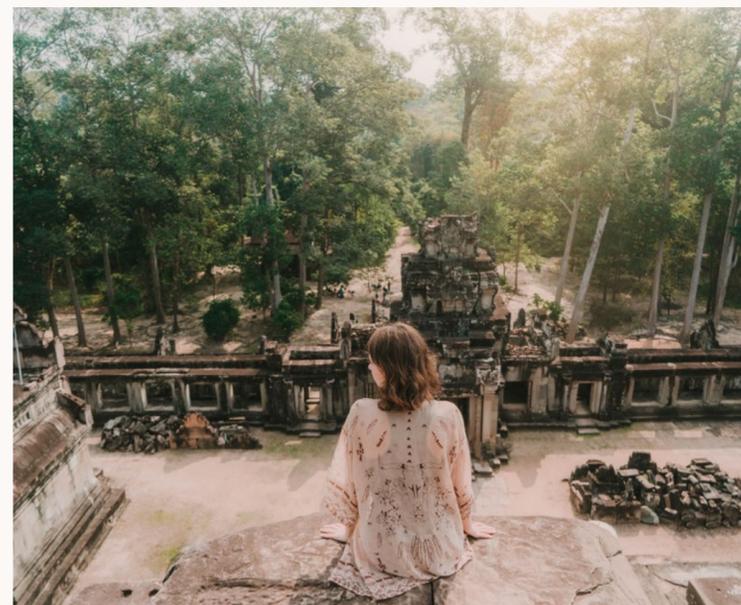
Words: Francesca Lee-Rogers



Searching for soul-enhancing experiences? Want to get to the heart of the locality? But at a loss of how to find the right people or get access? By drawing on an elite and extensive network, you can arrive at the most desirable events, open doors to unforgettable experiences, and meet people who are masters of their craft. This is how we ensure a trip isn't just special but leaves a footprint on the mind, body and soul. As poet Oliver Wendell Holmes said: "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions".

Aside from getting you last-minute tickets to a sold-out art exhibition or a meet-and-greet with a Vietnamese food blogger, the trips we curate are just as much about seeing local life first-hand.

Here are three ways you can take a deep dive into the rich culture that we have all been missing. Embrace new traditions, learn about different ways of



life through ceremonial exchanges and be taught unusual arts by experts. Do more than sit on the side and watch; jump in feet first.

Bangkok is home to the sacred tattoo art of sak yant, believed to offer power, protection, charisma and other benefits for the bearer. A visit to an authentic samnak or salon is a must, where the resident ajarn (master) reveals lessons about their complex craft. Embracing the intricacies of this detailed work is made a lot easier with researcher, author and Thai culture expert, Joe Cummings. He is an expert guide and TedX speaker on the symbolism of this ancient ink, from the tigers that ward off enemies to the five lines that bring good fortune.

Elsewhere, there's the opportunity to experience the marvels of architecture by volunteering at one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Angkor Wat temple in **Siem Reap**. With the right introduction, the German Apsara Conservation Project (GACP) will let

you go behind the scenes for an exclusive opportunity to meet the team and see sites that are often closed off to the general public. Scale the scaffolding to sit alongside researchers at Prasat Kravan and learn about the techniques of their role first-hand and listen to their stories of the mesmerising Hindu deities.

Meanwhile at **DeraMandawa** hotel in **Jaipur**, the Mandawa family are eager to teach kite flying the local way. It's a pastime that has been handed down through generations and offers a tranquil insight into the festivities and feasts of Makar Sankranti, the festival of the sun. The family can also show you how to tie a turban and wear a saree so you can fully embrace a way of life outside of your own.

Next time you think about going away, remember to look into the emotional and spiritual benefits of deeper connections with communities. When you know where to look, you can uncover a world of possibilities.

Cause for celebration

THE BIGGER THE BIRTHDAY, THE BETTER THE EXCUSE FOR A BLOWOUT CELEBRATION — AND PLANNING A GRAND ADVENTURE FOR ALL THE FAMILY IS CERTAINLY A MEMORABLE WAY TO MARK ANOTHER TRIP AROUND THE SUN

Words: Ellen Millard



The past year has given us cause to sit back and rethink what truly matters in life. Family, friends and taking the time to reconnect with them has never felt more needed, or indeed more important. As our focus turns to loved ones and making up for lost time together, milestone moments are taking on a greater significance too – and those approaching a big birthday should consider marking the occasion accordingly.

Such an event deserves a blowout celebration that gathers those you hold dearest for the party of a lifetime. Swap family holiday stories over a barbecue on a desert island; give your grandchildren something to remember with a catered picnic against a backdrop of the Rocky Mountains; or share your love of skiing with your own private après-ski event following a day on the slopes. With our dedicated concierge and a network of close contacts, we'll plan and arrange everything on your behalf – from private planes and bands playing your favourite music, to bespoke dinners personal photographers and even your very own film to keep of the entire celebration.

Here's how a little imagination and creativity can go a long way...

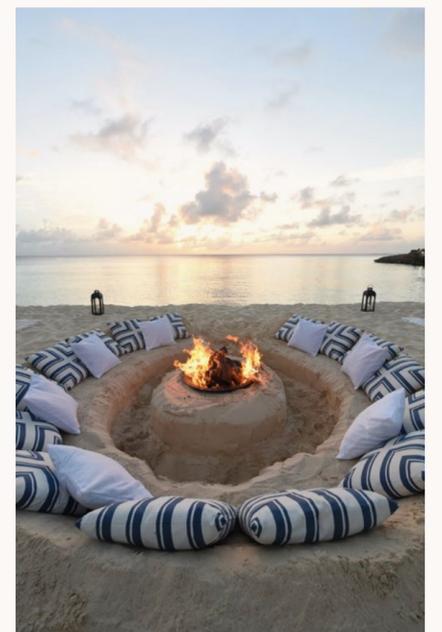


ISLAND PARADISE

For those looking for a tranquil home-from-home in which to entertain your nearest and dearest, *Nafsika Estate* will certainly impress. Space and privacy can be hard to come by in *Santorini*, but hidden away on a less trodden path is this modern architectural gem with uninterrupted views of the Megalochori caldera. Housing up to 10 guests, this dramatic villa is carved into the hillside with sleek white walls and an expansive ocean-gazing terrace that alone is worth the trip.

Arrive in style on a private helicopter, swooping over the glistening Aegean sea before touching down on the villa's helipad, where your private butler will greet you with your favourite cocktail. Bask by the pool in the beating sunshine while your very own executive chef prepares a feast of grilled fish on the barbecue for the ultimate al-fresco dinner party, set against the backdrop of a dramatic sunset.

For something seriously special, let your chauffeur drive you to Symposium, a music and mythology centre housed in a turn-of-the-century winery and dedicated to preserving Greece's cultural heritage. Have the place to yourselves, so you can sit back and relax in the beautiful courtyard while listening to a powerful and immersive musical concert performed just for you and your family.



For a smaller, more intimate get-together with a touch of high-glamour, seek a location that offers the utmost seclusion. Meads Bay is nestled beneath the clifftop resort of *Malliouhana*, where the chalk white shoreline of *Anguilla* leaks into the Caribbean Sea, and the evening light casts a golden hue. This secluded spot is a serene location for an intimate celebration, which can be made all the more special by hiring it out exclusively for a private and unforgettable beach party.

Kick off the evening with a celebratory feast prepared by the hotel's expert chefs, with local seafood and the day's catch grilled on the barbecue and seasoned with fiery Caribbean flavours. When the sun sets, jump on a transparent paddle board for a truly unforgettable moonlight trip through the crystal-clear waters. Let the darkness heighten your senses as you learn to paddle board in a whole new, thrilling way, looking out for schools of fish swimming beneath your feet as you navigate the gentle waves. On return, gather around the firepit for toasted smores and gift giving, sharing memories as you sip zingy rum punch cocktails. End the night by dancing together under the stars to the beat of a local band playing your personalised playlist.





◀ If your birthday falls in winter or you're happiest together when on the slopes, take 20 of your brood to the most desirable and exclusive chalet in *Val d'Isere*. Secluded from the crowds on the side of the Solaise Mountain, *Le Chardon* is an inviting ski-in ski-out private enclave with enviable access to the slopes and jaw-dropping views. After a day hitting some of the most technically-challenging pistes, retreat to the chalet where boot warmers, a roaring fire and champagne on ice await. Ease weary legs with an in-chalet massage, or relive the day's most exhilarating moments while relaxing in the bubbling outdoor hot tubs, private saunas or 18ft swim spa.

There are several spacious living areas in which to enjoy board games and conversation, but you may find it difficult to draw your attention away from the floor-to-ceiling windows in the bedrooms, which bring the enchanting snowcapped vista to your bedside. Make the most of the scenery and host a celebration on the large private terrace, where you can gather around the roaring fire pit with a glass of Dom Pérignon in hand and raise a toast – this is the perfect setting for speeches to begin. The sweeping views of Manchet Valley and Vanoise National Park make for a remarkable backdrop to the rest of the evening; watch your mixologist show off their skills with a shaker at the hand-crafted snow bar, while a private chef prepares a bespoke gourmet feast.



◀ Art lovers, meanwhile, will be in their element at *Dar El Sadaka*, a private villa in *Marrakech* designed by the visual artist Jean-François Fourtou, where the parties are as creative as the interiors. A uniquely playful paradise with wildlife-themed suites, *Dar El Sadaka*'s charm lies in its ability to wow at every turn. Venture into a new kind of luxury influenced by modern art and character; we're talking lifelike sculptures of orangutans swinging from living room chandeliers, an elephant's trunk peeking out from behind vine-draped gardens, a giant's room inspired by Fourtou's childhood home, and even an upturned house in the garden that's fallen from the sky – a tribute to the artist's late grandfather.

Spend mornings strolling through the estate's whimsical sculpture park, taking turns to climb on the towering furniture in the curious Giant's House, and afternoons exploring the bustle of the medina. In the evening, as the light softens and the cicadas reach their crescendo, the palm-lined gardens take on an inviting glow. Under the light of 1,001 candles, tucked into lanterns and strung on the creeping branches of an ancient tree, raise a toast to good fortunes with a cocktail whipped up by the resident mixologist. Dinner is served in the Caidel tent, where a mirror ball dapples the banquet table in light. A Moroccan feast, cooked with ingredients grown in the kitchen garden, ends the day on a high.

There's no need to commission a party planner or an event organiser, or to worry about travel arrangements, timings and making sure everything goes according to plan. We have the people, the know-how and the connections around the world to pull off something seriously special. So, when's the date?

THE BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT

Parties take on a new meaning at *Ani Sri Lanka*. This 15-suite resort is only available for exclusive hire, making it the perfect spot for large families or groups looking to reconnect and spend time together completely uninterrupted. With the sprawling estate all to yourselves, celebrations can be as intimate or blowout as you want them to be. The resort's attentive staff are experts in throwing unforgettable parties and, with almost everything included in the price of the holiday, you can simply relax and enjoy spending time together without worrying about the admin.

The allure of having a resort to yourselves is unparalleled; here you are free to spend the day as you please, without worrying about when and where to meet – at *Ani Sri Lanka*, you're already together. Itineraries can be tailored to each family member's tastes, with myriad cultural and action-packed activities on offer – take a boat and your binoculars out to sea for an afternoon of whale watching, ride the waves with a surfing experience or sample *Sri Lanka*'s most delicious teas at a local plantation.



ADVENTURE TIME >

Nothing marks an occasion with the family like an adventure. Embrace a completely different way of life at *Sleeping Indian Ranch, Auberge Resorts Collection* a private working cattle ranch set against *Colorado*'s arresting landscape. Created for multi-generational groups of up to 16 people, this stunning retreat is yours exclusively and sets the stage for an authentic Western adventure. Saddle up a horse and roam free through *Colorado*'s golden undulating hills and Rocky Mountains, or be a ranch-hand for the day on a cattle drive.

Ditching laptops and iPads for a digital detox, lace-up your best walking boots and hit the arterial hiking trails that snake around the 15,000 acre estate. The breathtaking scenery and the possibility of an encounter with elk, moose and the elusive black bear will command everyone's full attention. Accompanied by a local expert, explore *Colorado*'s picturesque ancient woodlands, wildflower-strewn meadows and flowing streams. Don't forget to pack some champagne, as you're likely to stumble across the perfect spot for a surprise birthday picnic.

The largest post-and-beam log structure ever built, *Sleeping Indian Ranch* is pitched as an 'entertainment' lodge and is designed with special events in mind. Its pioneering spirit is infectious from the moment you enter; inspired by the sense of freedom ingrained into the surrounding landscape, you'll have limitless creativity to make this occasion truly personal, creating stories that will be told to future family generations to come.

We have the people, the know-how and the connections around the world to pull off something seriously special. So, when's the date?





Once in a lifetime

A once-in-a-lifetime trip is not about simply ticking off a 'bucket list'; it's about travel that can impact you as a person. Embark on a one-off experience to Lapland you'll never forget, one that will leave its imprint on your soul long after you return

Words: David Taylor

Of all the possibilities, there's one adventure that is worth the planning, worth saving up for: **Lapland**. With its powerful and mystical pull, the Arctic Circle remains isolated from civilisation with spellbinding nature as far as the eye can see. Time here takes you away from the crowds for an experience as enchanting as any child, or any parent for that matter, could wish for. And now the most exclusive lodge in Lapland could be yours – a haven of privacy, wellbeing, adventure and experiences you can't find anywhere else in the world.

At **Octola Lodge** you can escape the crowds and immerse yourself in forests and folklore within 300 hectares of private wilderness. Marvel at the breathtaking Aurora Borealis or receive a private audience with Father Christmas himself. A journey of inspiration, relaxation and complete wonder, this is an escape unlike any other, and it all comes with access to every conceivable private service and comfort you could imagine.

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: AURORA BOREALIS

From August through to April, the Arctic Circle is the home of Aurora Borealis, the ethereal Northern Lights. A world away from crowded modern life, the best way to see them is to journey into the wilderness. Take a guided snowshoe adventure to a private performance of nature's greatest show or watch the lights dance and flicker across the cosmos from the comfort of the lodge. You'll be perfectly placed here for epic views of the Northern Lights because the lodge has floor-to-ceiling windows in every bedroom to guarantee the best front row seats to the spectacle.

SLEIGH BELLS RING: REINDEER RIDES AND HUSKY SLEDDING

A special connection with nature is guaranteed in the Arctic as you slalom your way around snow-tipped trees and across pristine snowy landscapes on a reindeer sleigh ride. Sámi reindeer herders will regale you with stories over a roaring fire and hearty lunch: the Sámi way of life has developed around their reindeer over thousands of years, and you'll get to see first-hand the amazing partnership between human and animal and how this strong bond has evolved throughout time. Deeper into the woods, jump on a sledding trip with your own team of huskies – the only sound you'll hear is the light padding of the dogs' paws as they pick up speed with you at the helm.



SAVOUR THE HEALING QUALITIES: SPA FOR THE SPIRIT

Downtime for grown-ups is found in the serenity of nature. Indulge in the obligatory ritual of a Nordic spa by alternating between the heat of the wooden sauna, immersed in the scents of pine wood, and invigorating dips in the private lake's crystal-clear ice water. Nothing will awaken your senses quite like this. After you've taken the plunge and felt the tingling afterglow, reward yourself with a leisurely soak in a steamy outdoor hot tub, or a much-deserved spa treatment. As the evenings draw in, it's time to get cosy; tuck into locally-sourced cuisine prepared by your in-house Michelin-starred chefs in the main cabin or inside a wooden hut deep within the forest.

ADVENTURE AWAITS: DISCOVER A SNOWY PARADISE

Each day is an opportunity for exploration, and there's no place more suited to this than the Arctic. Snowshoeing expeditions are a must. Venture onto virgin snow to spot rare wildlife, such as the majestic brown bear or maybe even a spotted lynx. For a more high-octane buzz, take a snowmobile for a spin and push further than ever into the wilderness, speeding across frozen lakes and up mountains of snow where hardly a soul has explored, before strapping on your skis for an invigorating cross-country adventure. Isolated from civilisation, and overlooking miles of unspoilt nature, you'll never feel closer to planet earth.

SANTA, BABY: FATHER CHRISTMAS BY INVITATION

If being met on arrival in Lapland by one of Santa's elves (bearing gifts of gingerbread and mulled wine) isn't enough, treat your younger guests – and reignite your own childish glee – with a magical search for the jolly man himself. Take a sleigh ride through the forest and straight into a fairytale to reach a hidden wooden workshop, a whisper of smoke coming from the chimney. If you wish hard enough, you might, just might, find Father Christmas waiting to greet you for a very private meeting. Just make sure you've been nice this year!



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