

Globe trotter

Insider intel for the global travelista

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WILD WONDERS

INKATERRA MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO HOTEL, PERU

Overlooking the roaring Urubamba River and the stunning peaks of the Andes, this luxury eco-lodge is surrounded by 12 acres of mountain forests filled with wild birds and rare orchids and is all about reducing its carbon footprint. Designed as a sprawling Andean style village, guests follow rough cobbled footpaths to their rooms located in one-or-two storey whitewashed bungalows. The famous Inca ruins are pretty much on your doorstep. Café Inkaterra, with its thatched palms and railway line views, serves delicious Andean fare while the hotel tailor-makes excursions that include everything from an expedition to the citadel to wonder-filled nature walks. Inkaterra.com



AWASI IGUAZÚ, MISIONES, ARGENTINA

Situated on the banks of the River Iguazú and just 15 minutes from the world's largest waterfalls, Awasi Iguazu has 14 stand-alone villas plus a main lodge. Built on stilts for minimal environmental impact, the villas are spread throughout the lush and dense jungle, each positioned for the utmost privacy but within easy distance of the main lodge. Each villa has a large outdoor deck, plunge pool and a personal guide. This ensures you are free to tailor-make your experience to suit your own requirements. Hundreds of different coloured butterflies and bird species buzz

between the branches of the Atlantic rainforest. You're in extremely professional and good hands here and language is no barrier as the guides speak Spanish, German, French, Portuguese and English. The exclusive experiences include exploring the hidden waterfalls, kayaking through the jungle's myriad waterways and sunrise and sunset picnics. At the lodge treat yourself to delicacies – local river fish, beef and lamb, served alongside pumpkin gnocchi and lentil salads – from a menu that changes slightly every day. It is up to you whether you want to dine inside the spacious restaurant or outdoors under a forest canopy. Avasiguazu.com



CHEZ GEORGES, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

High on a hilltop in Rio de Janeiro's lush Santa Teresa neighbourhood between central Rio and the sandy beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema, this private villa is a music-lover's dream. Designed by architect Wladimir Alves De Souza, the villa can only be rented out in its entirety and comprises seven suites and an independent two-bedroom studio. The entire house is hooked up to a state-of-the-art music production room, below the 15-metre long pool, transforming the villa into a huge recording studio. The entrance is through a beautiful concrete arch and a stunning six-meter high wooden door. Another standout feature is the vaulted concrete pergola and the 360 degree viewing point on the roof. With amazing backdrops of the Sugarloaf mountains, Guanabara Bay and the city rooftops, the views are as mesmeric as they come. The best thing also is that the villa can be refigured to suit families and large groups. If there's a choice to opt for a hotel room or this one, there's no question which one we would choose. Georges.life



PIKAIA LODGE GALÁPAGOS, ECUADOR

Ecuador's first eco-friendly luxury hotel sits on the edge of two extinct volcanic craters in the forested hills of Santa Cruz and offers majestic sweeping views of the oceans, forests and mist-shrouded highlands. With the private tortoise reserve on the hotel's 31-hectare land, wild giant tortoises come and go as they please. The Galapagos and its surrounding marine reserve are Natural World Heritage sites of UNESCO. All rooms have panoramic, unobstructed views. The Evolution restaurant on the top edge of the crater offers an American-style buffet for breakfast, a variety of dishes to choose from at lunch and a sophisticated menu inspired by a fusion of Peruvian and Ecuadorian cuisine at dinner time. There is the Sumaq Spa for additional pampering as well. An indulgent body rub using volcanic Galápagos mud, followed by a shamanic massage, spells bliss to us. Up in Pikaia, you really do have your head in the clouds. Pikaialodgegalapagos.com

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LA LANCHAS, GUATEMALA

Tucked into the rainforest high above the shore of Lago Petén Itzá, this luxury eco-friendly hideaway is located only a 45-minute drive away from the magnificent Maya ruins of Tikal and the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Be prepared to spot parakeets, toucans or howler monkeys outside your room. The 10 rooms in this resort are decorated with Guatemalan masks, fabrics and carvings as well as artwork and furniture from Bali, and even bits of old film scenery adding heaps of character. In the open-air main lodge area, with its thatched roof and dugout canoes, you can feast on authentic local dishes such as chilaquiles, beef tenderloin and suban ik (God's meal). Adventure aficionados can get their thrills walking the aerial walkway, zip lining, hiking in the jungle or taking a canoe and exploring Lago Petén Itzá. Thefamilycopplahideaways.com