



Courtesy of the Pikaia Lodge

Pikaia Lodge

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Explore the [Galapagos](#) from the comfort of the luxury [Pikaia Lodge](#), which sits atop an extinct volcano with views out across the savannah, a mountain range, and the Pacific Ocean. “One of our guests put it best when he reviewed the property by saying, ‘This place is better than Jurassic Park,’” writes Andrea Malis of [Camelback Odyssey Travel](#). Pikaia Lodge offers land-based eco-adventure tours—choose from packages ranging from three to seven nights—that might involve traversing lava tunnels, visiting organic coffee farms, or stretching out on pristine beaches. Each package includes a yacht trip where you’ll get to hike, kayak, snorkel or otherwise enjoy the more remote islands of the Galapagos. For those nights when you’re staying at the Lodge, you can take advantage of the infinity pool, Sumaq spa, 3.5 kilometers of trails for walking, biking, and jogging. There’s also a private tortoise reserve on the property so guests have an excellent chance of spotting iconic giant tortoises during their stay.

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Twenty-One of the World’s Ultimate Luxury Vacations

by Amy McKeever February 8, 2016

Sometimes the journey really is about the destination. Secluded beach bungalows, glamorous mountain retreats, inns tucked into remote unspoiled landscapes, and romantic lodges in the heart of the bush are extraordinary experiences in and of themselves. Travel + Leisure consulted with travel advisors across the world—including many from our own [A-List](#) of power agents—to find these special places: the world’s ultimate luxury escapes.

These 21 properties are so spectacular that you might never want to leave your private villa—and you definitely don’t have to leave, either. Spend your days on your own private beach on a Polynesian island

whose charms wooed a Hollywood legend (The Brando). Explore Chile's prized Torres del Paine National Park from an "adventure spa" retreat right in the park itself (Tierra Patagonia). Charm your loved one at a Mexican resort where the amenities include helping you leave love messages in a bottle on the beach (Las Ventanas al Paraiso). Channel the sweeping romance of Out of Africa at the Kenyan game reserve where it was filmed (Angama Mara). And experience the Canadian wilderness firsthand from the comfort of a luxurious tented suite (Clayoquot).

Even that barely covers the splendor you'll find across the world from the Swiss Alps to the Indonesian jungle, to the private islands of the Maldives, Seychelles, and the Caribbean.

Many thanks to travel experts who contributed advice, including Kristen Korey Pike, founder and CEO of [KK Travel Worldwide](#); Andrea Malis with [Camelback Odyssey Travel](#); Bobby Zur, founder of [Travel Artistry](#); Valerie Ann Wilson, co-owner of [Valerie Wilson Travel](#); Betty Jo Currie of [Currie & Co. Travels Unlimited](#); Ginny Caragol, executive director of leisure for [Valerie Wilson Travel](#); Kate Corey, founder of [The Nomadic Souls](#); Stacy H. Small, president and founder of [Elite Travel International](#); Jessica Maxwell with [Currie & Co Travels Unlimited](#); and Julie Falconer of [A Lady in London](#).