

# R H A P S O D Y

April 2018

**TRADING  
SECRETS**

*WITH*

**KERI  
RUSSELL**

**ON THE LINE**  
ANGLING FOR  
SAILFISH IN  
GUATEMALA

**A WALK TO  
REMEMBER**  
THE SIX  
BEST LUXURY  
HIKING TRIPS

**BABE RUTH  
REVISITED?**  
SHOHEI OHTANI  
SHAKES UP  
BASEBALL



**UNITED**   
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

A lush, green forest scene with a suspension bridge in the foreground. The bridge is made of dark wood and metal cables, stretching across the frame. The background is filled with tall trees and dense foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

# Trailblazing Luxury

Not all journeys into the great outdoors require roughing it. Here, six destinations where you can soak up as much as you sweat out.

Story **Molly McArdle**



## AMAZON RIVER PERU

**Why to Go** The Amazon demands superlatives: The river, at 4,345 miles, is Earth's longest, and the rainforest, at over 2 million square miles, is the planet's largest. Brazil offers the most traditional Amazon experience, though its strengths lie in the human and cultural offerings. Upriver, in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, visitors will find more abundant hiking, biking, kayaking, and even swimming



opportunities, as well as a greater variety of wildlife. The fauna in this enormous biosphere, of course, is as iconic as it is diverse, from anacondas to piranhas, scarlet macaws to poisonous frogs, sloths to spider monkeys.

**How to Go** Aqua Expeditions' *Aria Amazon* river boat brings unimaginable luxury to the wilds of the Peruvian jungle. The vessel—which sets out from Iquitos or Nauta, depending on the season—hosts no more than 32 guests, and each of its 250-square-foot cabins has floor-to-ceiling windows to maximize wildlife watching. Guided expeditions off the boat take place throughout the day. One of Lima's top chefs, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino (of Amaz and Malabar), oversees the Amazonia-inspired cuisine (think escolar fish in *aji panka* chili adobo and grilled paiche with *huatia* potatoes) served onboard.

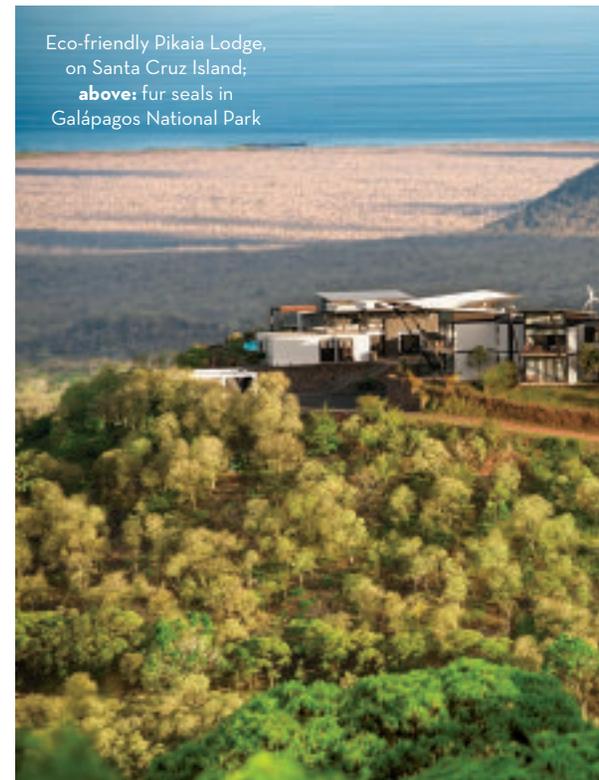
**Where to Stay** Across the Yarapa River (a tributary of the Amazon) from Nauta, **Treehouse Lodge** is a collection of 10 comfortably rustic suites perched between 34 and 67 feet above the ground. Although the views from up in the canopy are breathtaking, you'll want to get back to solid ground for a guided hike, which might take you out into the jungle to forage for medicinal plants, track nocturnal monkeys, or find 6-foot-wide giant water lilies.

**Left, from top:** a cabin on the *Aria Amazon* river boat; a suite and a piranha dish at the Treehouse Lodge

## THE GALÁPAGOS ECUADOR

**Why to Go** The Galápagos wasn't destined to be the crown jewel of pristine ecosystems. It is a remote archipelago—but not so remote as, say, Hawaii. It does have a remarkable array of endemic animals—but not so unique as, say, Australia's. Yet with a cameo role in Darwin's *The Voyage of the Beagle*, which recorded the genesis of his theory of evolution; a history relatively empty of human intervention (unlike Hawaii and Australia, where introduced species quickly laid waste to local flora and fauna); and a population of animals that don't blink at human proximity, the Galápagos became a living symbol of "the environment." Today, exploring the area is a highly regulated experience. Visitors must be accompanied

Symoni Johnson/RES Studio (Treehouse Lodge); David Vargas (fur seals)



Eco-friendly Pikaia Lodge, on Santa Cruz Island; **above:** fur seals in Galápagos National Park