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## Travel special: the world's wildest hotels

Twenty spectacular places to stay, from a farmstead in New Zealand to a caravan in Bolivia. By Lisa Grainger



Adler Mountain Lodge, Italy

The Times, February 3 2018, 12:01am



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**I** Adler Mountain Lodge, Italy  
The Dolomites are among the most spectacular mountain ranges in Europe,

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the calcium carbonate and magnesium composition of all the surrounding rocks.  
*Doubles from £340 full board including activities ([adler-lodge.com](http://adler-lodge.com))*

## 2 Raven's Nest, Romania

Around the Carpathian mountains lies one of the largest areas of wilderness in Europe. Up a winding road, in a natural dell, sits Raven's Nest: three traditional 18th-century thatched wooden village houses that have been transformed into a stylish boutique hotel. Although from the outside it looks authentically Transylvanian, the hotel is sleek and contemporary, with an outdoor wood-fired Jacuzzi and sauna from which to admire the mountain scenery, and a forest cinema in which to watch films under the stars. There are hikes through wildflower-covered fields to limestone caves and waterfalls and drives into the mountains to try to spot wolves and bears.

*Doubles from £62 B&B ([ravensnest.eu](http://ravensnest.eu))*

## 3 Al Maha, Dubai



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look out at the emptiness or lie in the shade having a massage, before going out when it's cooler to explore on foot, horseback or camel.

*Doubles from £582 B&B ([al-maha.com](http://al-maha.com))*

#### **4 Torre de Palma, Portugal**

Just south of Lisbon is the Alentejo region: one of the least populated and best protected nature reserves in Europe, with more than 60 miles of preserved coastline and several national parks. The converted Torre de Palma wine hotel is one of the most charming places from which to explore the area. A former castle, it dates to 1338 and has turrets and whitewashed walls, as well as chic interiors furnished with a mix of Portuguese antiques and contemporary crafts. There's a spa from which to survey the wild landscapes, as well as Lusitano horses for exploring the natural hinterland around.

*Doubles from £120 ([torredepalma.com](http://torredepalma.com))*

#### **5 San Camp, Botswana**

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There's nothing out here in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. That's the point. All there is to see are Kalahari sand flats and white salt pans, broken by an occasional fat baobab. This white-tented camp lies at the centre of the pans - once a giant lake - and from here trips go out on four-wheel-drive quad bikes to bushman communities and to spy on desert lions.

*Doubles from £1,810 full board including activities ([naturalselection.travel](http://naturalselection.travel))*

### **6 Kyle House, Scotland**

If you don't want to be found for a while, Sutherland is a pretty good place to hide out. The most northerly part of mainland Scotland contains one of Europe's last remaining wildernesses, and Kinloch estate is at its core, covering more than 20,000 acres that stretch from beaches at Kyle Tongue to the peak of 914m Ben Hope. Kinloch's Danish owners have transformed not only the old hunting lodge into a contemporary hideaway but estate cottages such as the minimalist Kyle House, which combines traditional designs with pared-back Danish furniture. There are lochs to fish, mountains to climb, forests and rivers to explore - and because the house can be rented only by a single group, you get it all to yourself.

*Doubles from £1,200 for 3 nights ([kyle.scot](http://kyle.scot))*

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savannah to explore - or to admire from bed in one of the camp's nine stilted bungalows.

*Doubles from £1,260 full board including activities ([bamurruplains.com](http://bamurruplains.com))*

## 8 Papua Paradise, Indonesia

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Off the coast of mainland Indonesia are more than 1,500 mostly uninhabited islands. Global warming hasn't yet bleached these corals, and seas teem with kaleidoscopic life, from tiny seahorses to giant rays. The 26-bedroom Papua

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*Doubles from £250 B&B ([papuaparadise.com](http://papuaparadise.com))*

## **9 Serra Cafema, Namibia**



The northwest of Namibia is one of the most brutal regions in Africa: a vast tract of sand dunes and extreme heat. On the banks of the Kunene River - the only source of water in the region - is this remote eight-room camp. It is not just a cool oasis but a base from which to meet the nomadic Himba people. After an afternoon quad-biking across the dunes, the ideal place to sit at the end of the day is on top of a dune, watching the sun turning hundreds of miles of undulating landscape from apricot to pink and purple.

*Doubles from £933 full board, including activities ([wilderness-safaris.com](http://wilderness-safaris.com))*

## **10 Mahu Whenua, New Zealand**

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A working farmstead on South Island, the 12-bed Mahu Whenua consists of 4 sheep stations that cover more than 200sq miles. More than 90 per cent of the land is set aside for conservation - the largest private land-protection project in New Zealand's history - and includes dramatic alpine scenery in which to bike, hike, horse-ride and ski. Mount Aspiring and Fiordland national parks and Milford Sound are just a short heli-flit away for those who want to explore wilderness beyond their own private estate.

*Doubles from £977 full board ([mahuwhenua.co.nz](http://mahuwhenua.co.nz))*

## **11 The Serai, India**

Below the towering 12th-century fortress of Jaisalmer lies the Thar desert and, at its centre, stands the Serai. Although the tented camp has plunge pools, a spa and butler service, it is best known for its excursions: to birdwatch on the grasslands, have sundowners on a remote sand dune, visit the abandoned ruined city of Kuldhara, or sit by the fire at night listening to traditional folk tunes, as people have done for centuries.

*Doubles from £533 B&B ([sujanluxury.com](http://sujanluxury.com))*

## **12 Amangiri, Utah, USA**

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Set in the heart of the American southwest, within easy reach of the Grand and Bryce Canyons and Zion National Park - the hotel was designed specifically so that guests could see and hear the wilderness around. Balconies have telescopes for stargazing. There's hot-air ballooning, horse-riding through dry canyon floors or climbing with guides.

*Doubles from £1,020 full board including activities ([aman.com](http://aman.com))*

### **13 Airstream caravan, Bolivia**



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The Uyuni in Bolivia are the biggest salt flats on Earth, stretching for more than 4,000sq miles. And the best way to experience the moonscape and eerie silence is in an Airstream caravan. Dinner under starry skies is cooked by a private chef. *Doubles from £700 half board ([steppestravel.com](http://steppestravel.com))*

**14 Clayoquot Wilderness Resort, Canada**

Ready for more? Subscribe for just £1 for 30 days.



Situated in the Unesco Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve on Vancouver Island, this 25-tent resort can only be reached by boat or helicopter. There are no roads; just 600 acres of mountainous terrain covered by ancient temperate rainforest in which to horse-ride and hike - or be massaged next to a river. Salmon is fished in alpine lakes, accessible from one of the camp's Bell helicopters.

*Doubles from £5,640 for three nights including all activities, food and drink and seaplane transfers ([wildretreat.com](http://wildretreat.com))*

## **15 Javri Lodge, Finland**

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Once the home of a former president of Finland, the pine lodge is 160 miles north of the Arctic Circle and is surrounded by forests and lakes, as well as a national park. After a day husky-sledding and cross-country skiing, there's a pool and sauna in which to relax.

*Doubles from £600 half board including skiing ([javri.fi](http://javri.fi))*

**16 Bawah Island, Indonesia**

Ready for more? Subscribe for just £1 for 30 days.



Bawah is remote - it takes three hours to get to by ferry and seaplane from Singapore. The resort's 5 private islands, forested with 300 hectares of jungle, have 35 thatched rooms. There are bat caves, a jungle to hike through and reefs to snorkel in.

*Doubles from £1,428 full board including activities and seaplane transfers from Singapore ([bawahisland.com](http://bawahisland.com))*

**17 Paws Up, Montana, USA**

Ready for more? Subscribe for just £1 for 30 days.



This 37,000-acre property in Montana is a working ranch as well as a luxury resort, with riverside tents and logger-style cabins. Guests live as modern-day ranchers: from whitewater rafting to wagon-team driving and shooting. *Doubles from £760 full board including activities ([pawsup.com](http://pawsup.com))*

**18 Satoyama Jujo, Japan**

Ready for more? Subscribe for just £1 for 30 days.



This converted inn is surrounded by forests and mountains in the remote Minami-uonuma region, known for its rice farms. It's built around a 150-year-old wooden house and immerses its guests in local farming culture. Plus mountain-biking and open-air bathing.

*Doubles from £263 B&B ([en.satoyama-jujo.com](http://en.satoyama-jujo.com))*

**19 Ibo Island Lodge, Mozambique**

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Ready for more? Subscribe for just £1 for 30 days.



Ibo Island is in the northern Quirimbas archipelago. The lodge has 40ft dhows to explore other islands on 5-14 day trips. The boats drop anchor at night beside remote beaches where staff set up camp.

*Doubles from £4,630 full board for a 4-night dhow safari and 3 nights at Ibo Island Lodge including activities ([iboisland.com](http://iboisland.com))*

## **20 Barefoot at Havelock, Andaman Islands**

Of the 572 islands that lie between India and Burma, only a handful are accessible to tourists. Barefoot eco-lodge, on Havelock Island, is tucked into a giant mahua forest. From thatched wooden rooms, guests go hiking in the jungle, watch birds by day and bats by night, dive in warm waters or explore the marine park by boat.

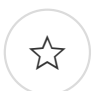
*Doubles from £168 ([barefoot-andaman.com](http://barefoot-andaman.com))*

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