

JETSETTER

LODGE LIFE

NEW ZEALAND'S BEST
LUXURY RETREATS



EASTERN EDEN

Cruising
Indonesia's
Most Remote
Corners

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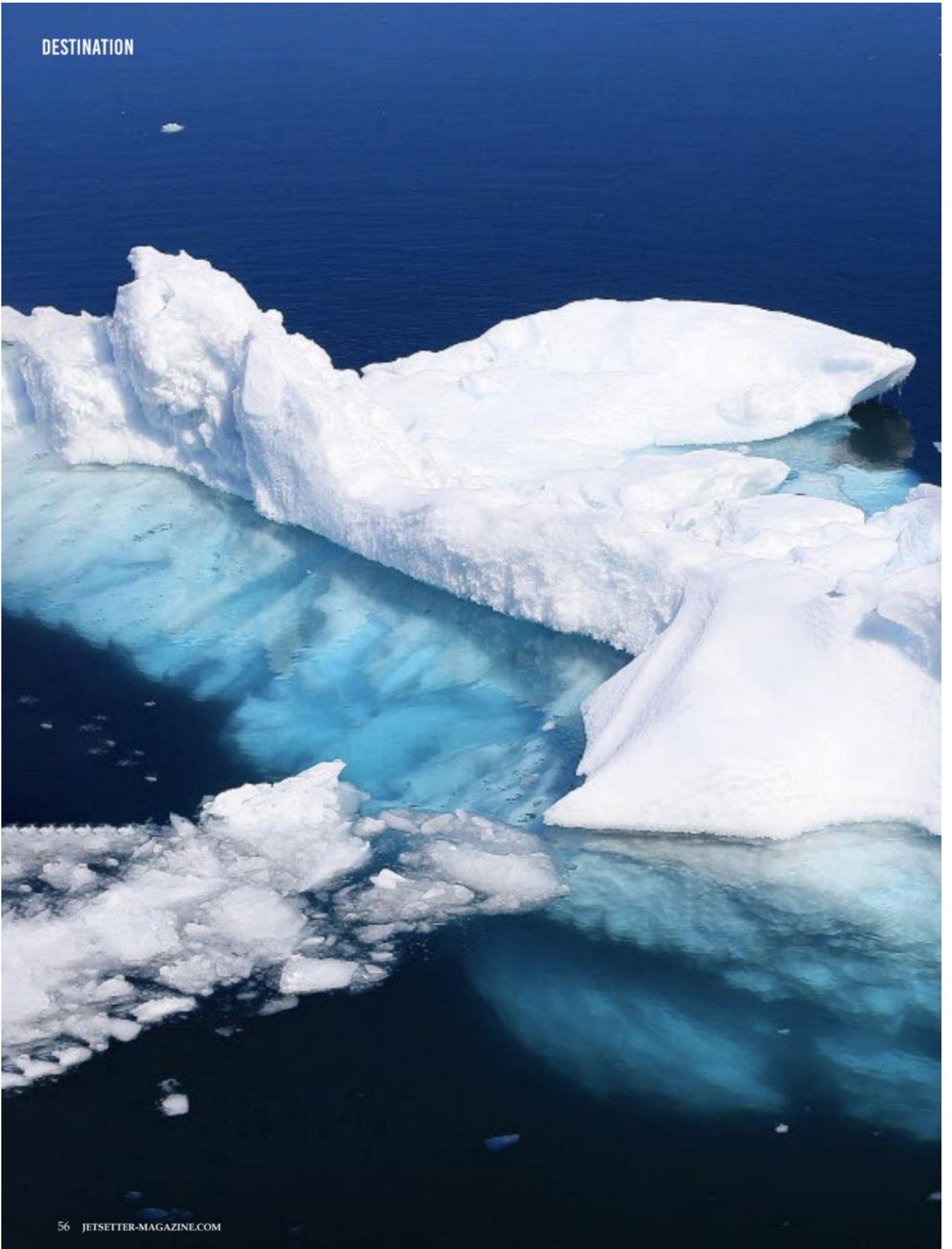
Finland's
Dynamic
Art & Dining
Scene

THE 2023 BUCKET LIST

Ultimate
Adventures
from Across
the Globe

BERLIN ■ MIAMI ■ COPENHAGEN ■ LANGKAWI

DESTINATION





2023 Ultimate Travel BUCKET LIST

From delving into the artisan workshops of Marrakesh to plying the rails of Western Europe in Old World luxury and bedding down under the stars in Africa, these are the travel experiences captivating us for the year ahead. By Nick Walton



The North Pole by Airship

Experiential travel company Pelorus has partnered with OceanSky Cruises to usher in a new age of no-footprint voyages that unlock access to some of the most remote and carefully preserved corners of the world via the latter's 'lighter than air' airships. The first charters are planned to take flight in 2024 and will offer guests the opportunity to cruise in complete comfort from Svalbard, in the Arctic Circle, to what is often considered 'ground zero' for climate change: the North Pole. Modern luxury explorers can expect to embark on a 36-hour round trip cruising at 1,000 feet above sea level during which they'll take in a unique perspective of this majestic landscape and its wildlife while dining on the finest cuisine and learning from onboard polar experts and scientists. The climax of this experience is the extraordinarily rare opportunity to drop down onto the exact location of The North Pole to enjoy a sustainable dining experience and spend a few precious hours at the very top of the planet. pelorusx.com

Flicks in the Jungle

If you're a movie junkie or just looking for a romantic evening after a day's sun worshipping you're in luck at Vakkaru Maldives. The luxury resort recently launched a Jungle Cinema experience that's perfect for those classic movie moments. Located in the middle of the resort, surrounded by lush tropical vegetation, Vakkaru's new Jungle Cinema seats up to ten people, making it great for private screenings with the family, small groups of friends, or a romantic date night for couples. With two screenings each night (at 7.30pm and 9.30pm), film buffs can choose from a wide selection of movie genres. You can opt for free-flowing soft drinks and popcorn, or a more elaborate set menu dinner if you're looking to impress that special someone. vakkarumaldives.com



Watch an Eclipse From the Coral Triangle

Explore the seas of eastern Indonesia aboard the *Celestia*, a luxury charter yacht launching this month. The new Phinisi, a traditional Indonesian design with interiors by Cape Town's Deirdre Renniers and engineering by naval architect Tresno Seery, will offer guests a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness a hybrid solar eclipse from the waters of the Coral Triangle this April. Boasting seven cabins, including one King Suite with a private terrace, the *Celestia* will offer bespoke itineraries ranging from 3-7 nights out of Komodo and 7-14 nights in other parts of the Coral Triangle, including Raja Ampat ([read more about this remarkable destination on pg 48](#)) and the Spice Islands. Itinerary activities include world-class diving, snorkelling, paddle boarding, kayaking, water-skiing, wakeboarding, birdwatching, private island-hopping, stargazing, private beach dinners, meditative yoga, massage treatments, and nature hikes. celestiayacht.com



Heli-Ski Greenland With an Olympian

EYOS Expeditions will offer a few lucky souls the chance to heli-ski some of Greenland's most remote peaks with U.S. Olympian Bode Miller this April. The alpine ski racer, the most decorated male alpine skier in US history and the only skier with five or more victories in four different disciplines (giant slalom, combined, super-G, and downhill) will lead a 'slope-to-sea' heliskiing adventure from the 12-guest *MV Nansen Explorer*, the ice-strengthen hull of which allows access to the Greenlandic coast in early spring. He will be joined by ski guide and two-time World Extreme Skiing Champion Chris Davenport and polar guide Doug Stoup, who's skied the seven continents, been to the South Pole 18 times, and pioneered skiing in Antarctica.

The expedition will take adventure lovers to the island of Maniitsoq on the western coast of Greenland, widely considered one of the most remote places in the world to heli-ski, and where it's possible to ski from slope to sea. The ship will cover 150 miles beyond the Arctic Circle to Disko Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site home to some of the largest icebergs in the world. eyos-expeditions.com

Heli-Golfing in Tasmania

Designed by renowned golf architect Tom Doak and Australia ex-European tour pro and course designer Mike Clayton, Barnbougale Dunes in Northern Tasmania is a must for any jetsetting golfer and a unique experience offered by Unique Charters makes the experience all the more indulgent. Home to two Top 100 courses, you'll get into Barnbougale by helicopter after a scenic flight from Launceston, meaning less time on the road and more time on the links. With a 9.30am tee off, there's time to play a full 18 at Dunes with lunch afterwards, or a quick 14 holes at Bougale Run, the estate's newest addition, with time for a wine tasting stop at Clover Hill on the way home. uniquecharters.com.au



Photo by: Jacob Sjoman

DESTINATION

An Exclusive Whisky Tasting

Discover the hidden icon of the whisky world, Brora Distillery, with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tasting experience. Closed for 35 years, the Highland distillery has been reborn and is now welcoming small groups of visitors through its famous wildcat gates. Unearth the distillery's rich history, meet its craftspeople, and marvel at its architecture, restored to its former glory, as you sit down to an opulent paired lunch featuring the best of Scottish produce in the heart of the distillery. You'll then taste some of the rarest whiskies in the world, including the £30,000 (US\$36,000) Triptych collection (you'll even have the chance to add the 1982 39-Year-Old distillery bottling to your collection, exclusive only to guests at the distillery). Visits to the distillery are by appointment only. brora.com



A Night Under the Stars

Head for Camp Kala, one of the newest safari retreats in Namibia, for a unique night under the stars aboard The Onguma Dream Cruiser. The new camp is situated within the Onguma Nature Reserve, a 34,000-hectare wilderness on the eastern border of the iconic Etosha National Park, and accommodates just eight guests in four spacious suites. Then there's the custom-built Dream Cruiser, which features a romantic upper deck boasting a beautiful four-poster bed and lounge area, while a bathroom downstairs comes complete with a shower, flush toilet and basin. Couples are dropped off at a beautiful spot overlooking a waterhole in the Onguma Nature Reserve just before sunset to enjoy sundowners on the upper deck. The chef then delivers a decadent picnic dinner to linger over as darkness slowly falls, before guests retire to their netted bed, the perfect spot for star gazing backdropped by the sounds of the bush. onguma.com



The Ultimate Driving Holiday

For an unforgettable vacation behind the wheel, make for Europe, where Ultimate Driving Tours will offer a unique itinerary that combines a supercar tour with the Monaco Grand Prix. The 10-night European Supercar Tour & Monaco Grand Prix Yacht Hospitality itinerary, departing 26 May, is the company's signature tour and offers guests a true bucket-list experience, including watching Formula 1's most iconic race onboard Ultimate Driving Tours' chartered superyacht. After soaking up the opulence of the Grand Prix weekend, the luxury tour of Europe begins, with guests driving some of the world's fastest supercars through five countries on the road to Zurich. All you have to do is decide - Ferrari, Aston Martin or Lamborghini? ultimatedrivingtours.com



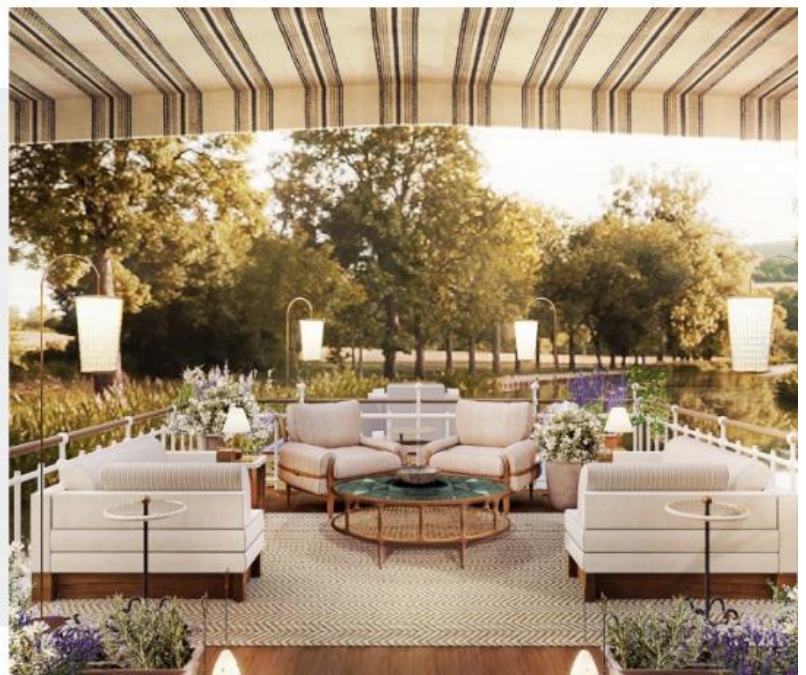
An Epic Sailing Adventure

Set to launch in 2026, Accor's Orient Express brand will launch *Orient Express Silenseas*, the first of two stunning oceangoing yachts the company has commissioned shipbuilders Chantiers de l'Atlantique to build. Promising to reignite the passion for travel that inspired George Nagelmackers to launch the original Orient Express train, and inspired by the Golden Age of the French Riviera, each of the new yachts will echo the glorious era when writers, artists, painters, princesses and movie stars spent time between Monte-Carlo, the beaches of Saint-Tropez, Cap d'Antibes, Cannes and its famous Croisette and discovered a refinement tinged with exquisite insouciance and *joie de vivre*.

A 220-metre-long ocean treasure with a tonnage of 22,300 UMS, *Orient Express Silenseas* will feature 54 Suites measuring on average 70 sqm, including a monumental 1,415 sqm Presidential Suite (with its own private terrace), two swimming pools, including a lap pool; two restaurants; an Amphitheatre-Cabaret; a recording studio, and a speakeasy bar. This unique travel experience, guided by the winds and powered by a hybrid propulsion system that includes three SolidSail rigid sails, will also feature spa treatments, meditation sessions and stopover explorations to discover cultural treasures that allow guests to completely unplug from reality and stop time. accor.com

A Cruise Through Champagne

Belmond has launched *Coquelicot*, A Belmond Boat, a new luxury barge that from May will take guests on a cinematic and highly personalised journey of Champagne, gliding along the region's canals and unveiling exquisite views from a unique vantage point. The new vessel features three glamorous cabins with ensuite facilities, an indoor salon with an exceptional champagne bar, and an extensive outdoor deck for relaxing pursuits, sensational dining and sparkling conversations. In addition, as part of *Coquelicot's* partnership with Maison Ruinart, the world's oldest Champagne house, guests will be treated to a private tasting lunch by Ruinart's chef in residence Valérie Radou, the first time Maison Ruinart's chef will be cooking a private 'four hands' lunch outside of the winery. belmond.com



DESTINATION

An Outback Adventure

The 15-day Ultimate Outback Safari experience from Australian Air Safaris – which runs small group private plane tours across the country with departures from Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Sydney – just might be the best way to delve into the very heart of this sunburnt land. During the itinerary, groups are led by their pilot across Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia. Along the way, you'll stay at incredible outback retreats, including Bullo River Station, Finnis River Lodge, and Longitude 131. The tour also includes stays at some more traditional outback experiences like the Birdsville Hotel, and visits to iconic Australian landmarks like Uluru, The Kimberly, the Bungle Bungle Range, and Arnhem Land. Each tour is also assisted by local guides who share their passion for Australia, ensuring guests are never short of stories to tell when they get home. australianairsafaris.com.au



Cycle Turkey's Taurus Mountains

The Slow Cyclist, specialists in carefully crafted small group e-cycling and walking holidays, has launched a new journey to Turkey for 2023. The Taurus Mountains is a six-day itinerary that sees guests explore the remote mountains on the southern edge of Turkey's Anatolian Plateau by foot and electric bicycle, beginning in Lake Egirdir, just two hours from Antalya. Cyclists will traverse ancient mountain trails where the black goat hair tents of Yoruk nomads are scattered across hillsides, and the tinkling bells of their flocks can be heard floating on the wind. Highlights of the trip include discovering a little-visited 2nd Century city, seeing wild horses roam on the high plateaus, swimming in secluded lakes, and sleeping in a luxurious tent kitted out with comfortable mattresses and Turkish *pikes* (woven rugs). You'll cycle between 20–60 km per day on a mix of quiet tarmac roads and occasional gravel roads, and walk for no more than three hours at a time. theslowcyclist.co.uk



A Luxury Journey Across India

The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts has launched The Leela Palace Trail, a thoughtfully curated itinerary that celebrates India's palatial grandeur, one defined by its rich cultural heritage and immersive rituals. During the multi-day itineraries, guests can marvel at the ornate Vijayanagara-inspired architecture of The Leela Palace Bengaluru, learn the culinary secrets of Rajasthan at The Leela Palace Jaipur, discover the royal heritage of the Mewars at The Leela Palace Udaipur, perched on the banks of majestic Lake Pichola (right); explore lively city bazaars with The Leela Palace New Delhi, or restore inner balance with the ancient science of Ayurveda at The Leela Kovalam.

There are two distinctive packages: The Leela Palace Trail and The Leela Palace Trail – Curated. While the former allows you to experience the opulence of India's finest palaces with the flexibility of weaving in your own destination experiences, The Leela Palace Trail – Curated is an itinerary that anticipates your every need and offers a distinctive Leela lens on the destination. The itinerary extends a local immersion of the destinations with signature Leela offerings, with highlights including unique dining experiences, ceremonial rituals, wellness therapies, palace tours, guided city tours, and rejuvenating yoga sessions. theleela.com



A Private New Zealand Escape

Enjoy the good life at Falcon Brae, a new exclusive-use luxury villa located at the confluence of the Stanley Brook and Motueka River, at the top of New Zealand's South Island. Boasting 360-degree views of the mountainous million-acre Kahurangi National Park and the picturesque Motueka Valley, and a short drive from both the Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes national parks, this award-winning architecturally designed retreat has it all. There's a sumptuous and expansive Great Room with a magnificent stone fireplace, grand piano and sunken bar; a media theatre; a show kitchen; four dining areas; a stunning collection of New Zealand art; its own helipad; a games den; a private pool and heated spa; and even a fire pit and BBQ area. There are three spacious suites to choose from – each with deep soak tubs and super king-sized beds – as well as a family bunk room. A raft of exciting activities curated by operations manager Jeremy Hancock includes guided hiking, white water rafting, and some of the region's best brown trout fly fishing. falconbraevilla.co.nz

DESTINATION



A Unique Shopping Adventure

If you're in need of a little retail therapy, head to Marrakesh to sample El Fenn's new Meet the Artisans break. The works of local artisans can be found throughout the landmark boutique hotel, which will now reveal its insider tips to guests that want to recreate the look and learn more about fascinating skills, passed down over the centuries, of master craftsmen and women.

Meet the Artisans guests gain access to all El Fenn's in the know secrets and have the opportunity to spend an afternoon at Sidi Ghanem, an artisan enclave and emerging shopping hub filled with local designers, artisans' workshops, and hip boutiques that sell everything from high-end fashion to Moroccan textiles and lamps created using traditional metalwork. Your driver will take you to the artisans that most appeal, from Maison Nicole, suppliers of bespoke furniture to celebrities like Cristiano Ronaldo and Romeo Gigli; to Magasin General, where vintage finds and antiques from Morocco's finest households and hotels go to retire. el-fenn.com

Cruising Australia in the Chairman's Carriage

If you're a train buff, you might be familiar with the *Indian-Pacific*. Operated by Great Southern Railways, the train travels 4,352km between Perth and Sydney via Adelaide - hence the name - and offers a gloriously all-inclusive slow travel experience. Available only on the *Indian-Pacific*, the Chairman's Carriage offers a new level of train travel luxury, one that's as indulgent as it is private. Boasting three Platinum Double cabins and one Platinum Twin cabin, the carriage accommodates up to eight guests and can be privately booked on selected departures. The carriage is dressed in the earthy tones of the desert landscape through which it travels, and boasts its own multi-purpose dining and lounge area with leather banquette seats. Guests in the Chairman's Carriage also have access to the train's Platinum Club and all its privileges, while all off-train experiences are included, as is the finest dining and premium wines. journeybeyonddrail.com.au





Cruise the Remote Ecuadorian Coast

Looking for a unique take on South America? In 2023, Kontiki Expeditions offers an eight-day exploration of the seldom-visited Ecuadorian coast, allowing for a rich cultural adventure. With only nine staterooms and excursions to sparsely populated coastal ports, the 18-guest 128 ft superyacht *M/S Kontiki Wayra* will travel on two routes – The Toquilla Expedition and The Spondylus Expedition – along the Ecuadorian coast, immersing guests in the country’s wealth of birds, animals, flora, fauna, indigenous foods and cultural traditions while adhering to a “neo luxury” philosophy of sustainability and giving back to the communities visited. The yacht’s small size and routes allow access to smaller ports, villages and nature reserves starting from or ending in Manta or Guayaquil. Along the journey, highlights of which include a visit to a cocoa farm, an excursion to a New Latitude vineyard, and a hike through the Pacoche Humid Forest, guests will enjoy the best farm-to-table dining and service from a 13-strong crew. kontikiexpeditions.com

Swim With Sperm Whales

Nothing could be more awe-inspiring than swimming with sperm whales in the clear Caribbean waters of Dominica. With pristine rainforest, a river for every day of the year, waterfalls, national parks, volcanoes, white and black sand beaches and a vast array of soul-restoring excursions and authentic experiences, Dominica provides the perfect escape to the wilderness and six-star all-villa resort Secret Bay offers the chance to swim with these sea giants in their natural habitat. Sperm whales are resident off the stunning Caribbean island all year, and the resort’s in-water whale experience day trip, which requires a specific permit regulated by the maritime authorities, is led by specially licensed and experienced guides who have invested decades studying and becoming intimately acquainted with Dominica’s resident sperm whale population. Along the way, you’ll learn about whale migration routes, feeding habits and environmental challenges. secretbay.dm

