

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

December 2025

NORTHERN SOUL

City comforts and on-piste thrills in Milan and beyond

WINTER REIGN

Falling for the stately charms of Prague and Dresden

VIBRANT VALENCIA

From ancient roots to futuristic buildings, enjoying a journey through Valencian delights



DIVINE
WINTER ESCAPES

EMBRACING COOL ADVENTURES AND SUNNY EXPLORATION, FROM LONDON TO THE SEYCHELLES

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◆ UNIQUE ESCAPES

◆ LUXURY CARS



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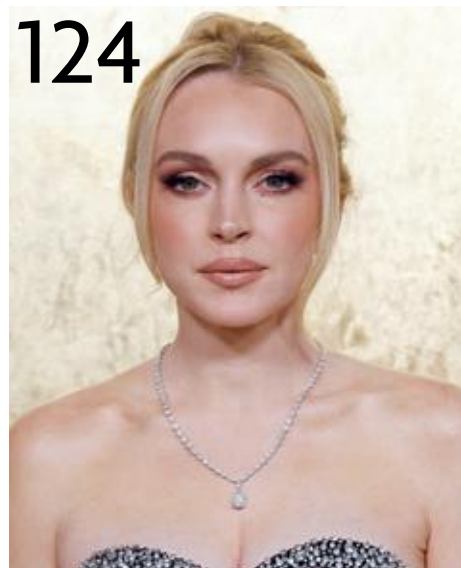
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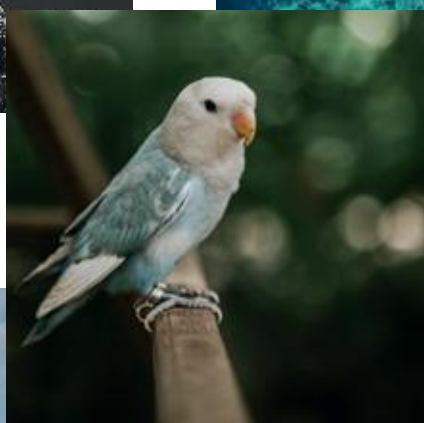
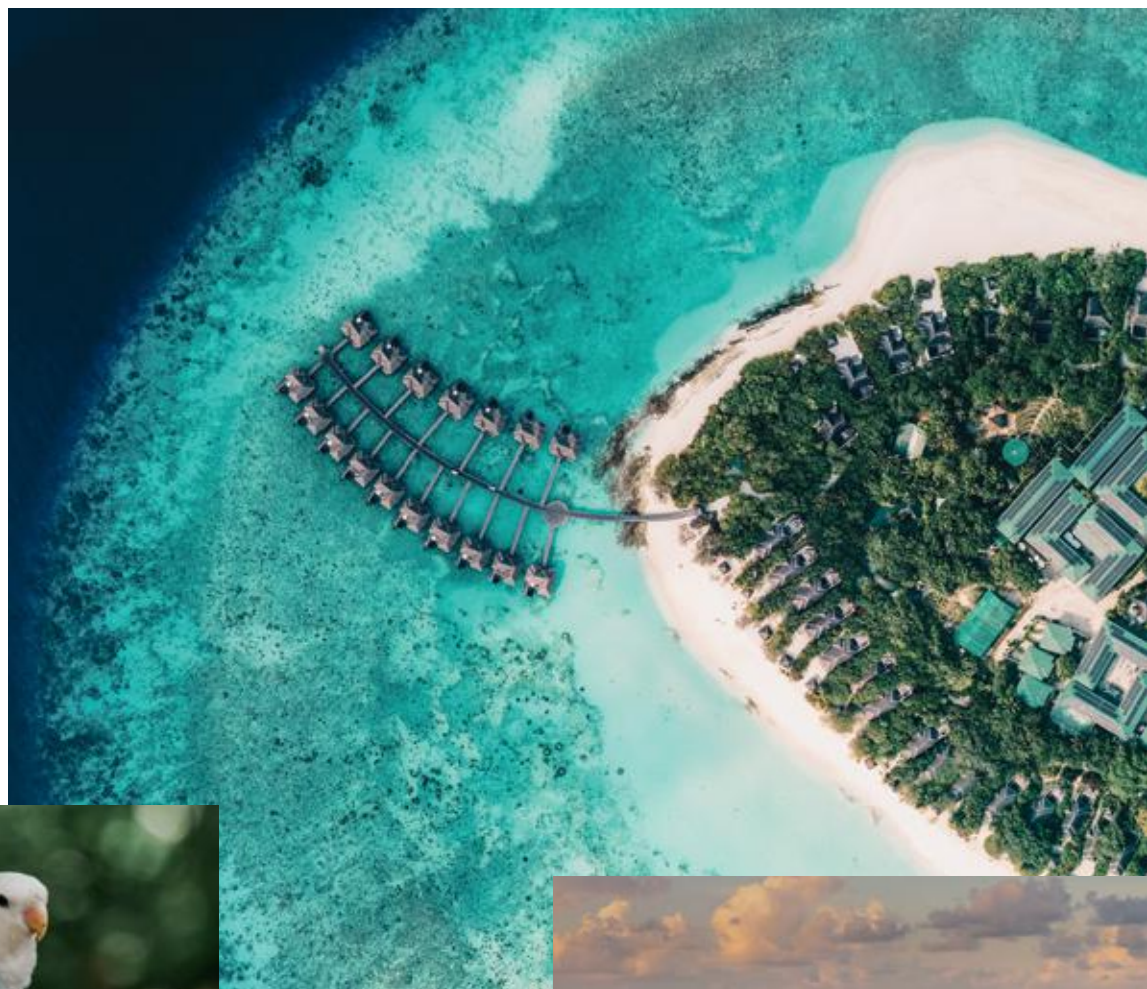
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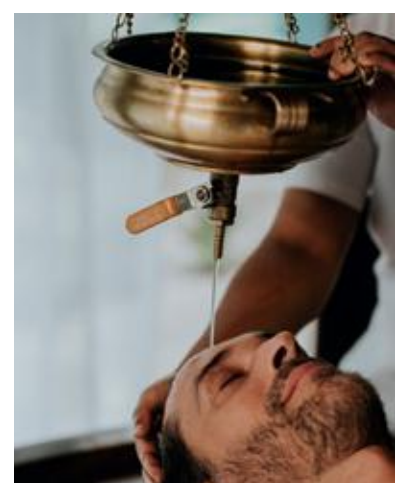
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NEWS

HOT EVENTS, NEW HOTELS AND GLOBAL JET-SETTERS

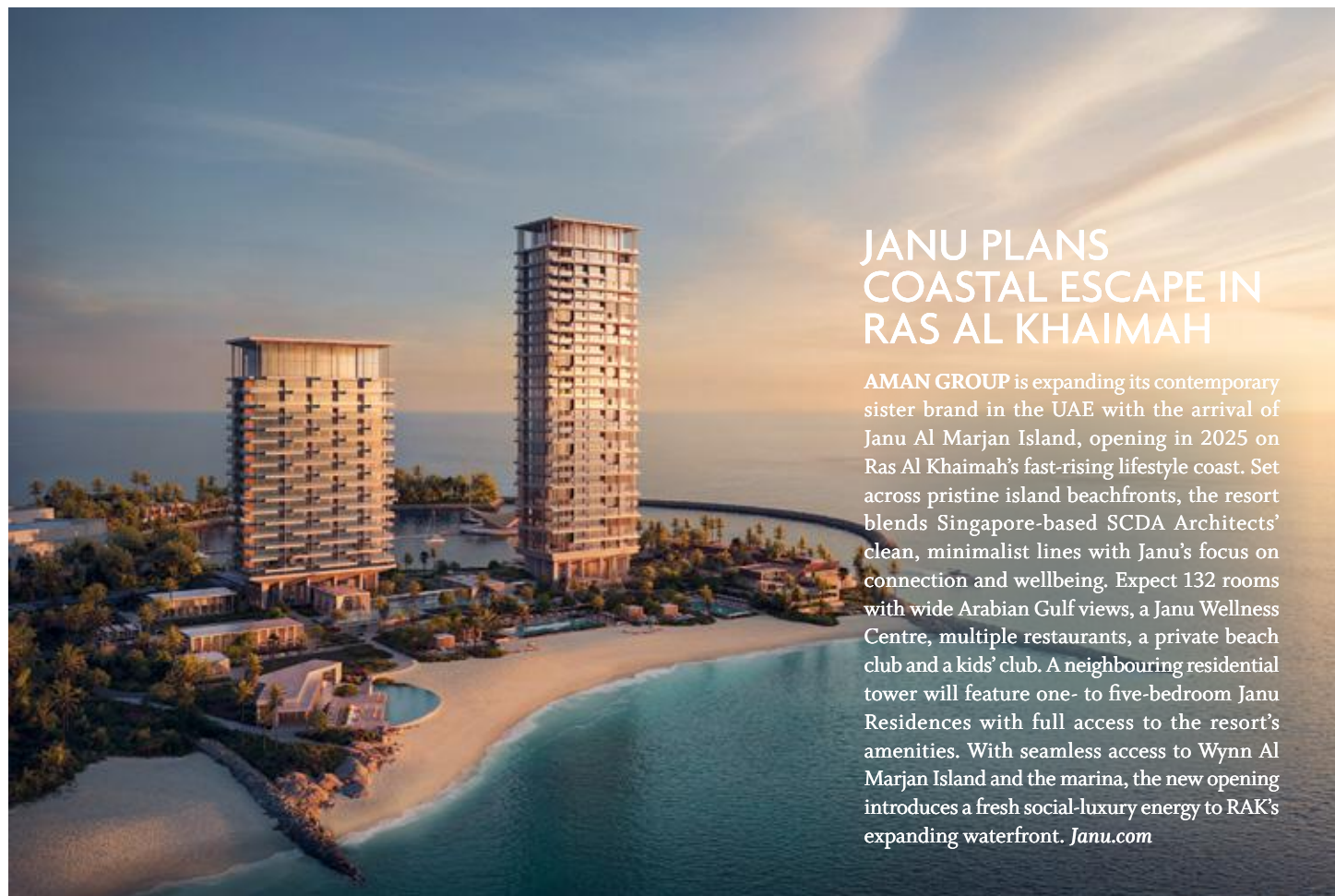


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JANU PLANS COASTAL ESCAPE IN RAS AL KHAIMAH

AMAN GROUP is expanding its contemporary sister brand in the UAE with the arrival of Janu Al Marjan Island, opening in 2025 on Ras Al Khaimah's fast-rising lifestyle coast. Set across pristine island beachfronts, the resort blends Singapore-based SCDA Architects' clean, minimalist lines with Janu's focus on connection and wellbeing. Expect 132 rooms with wide Arabian Gulf views, a Janu Wellness Centre, multiple restaurants, a private beach club and a kids' club. A neighbouring residential tower will feature one- to five-bedroom Janu Residences with full access to the resort's amenities. With seamless access to Wynn Al Marjan Island and the marina, the new opening introduces a fresh social-luxury energy to RAK's expanding waterfront. Janu.com



LUXE GLAMPING LANDS IN HATTA, UAE

OUR HABITAS WILL MAKE ITS UAE debut this December with Caravan Hatta by Our Habitas, a new low-impact retreat created in partnership with Ennismore and Dubai Holding. Set between the Hajar mountains and the Hatta Dam reservoir area, the site will feature 50 bespoke Airstream-style caravans with decks overlooking the valley or lake, each crafted with natural materials to blend into the landscape. At the heart of the retreat, the Lake House will offer an infinity pool framed by mountain views, alongside workshops, cultural rituals and wellness experiences including sound healing, yoga, hot and cold therapy, and stargazing sessions. Hiking, cycling and water activities round out the nature-led itinerary, bringing a contemporary caravanning experience to one of the UAE's most scenic destinations Ourhabitas.com



SIX LUXURY RESORTS SET TO OPEN IN AMAALA TRIPLE BAY



RED SEA GLOBAL IS POISED TO UNVEIL AMAALA'S TRIPLE BAY project in the coming months: a new and rather expansive ultra-luxury wellness destination on the Kingdom's north-western coast. Spread across three natural bays, the launch will introduce six resorts, a yacht club, a marine life institute and a 5km Wellness Route linking nature trails and coastal lookouts. The first properties will include Equinox Resort and Residences, Four Seasons AMAALA, Nammos Resort, Rosewood AMAALA and Six Senses AMAALA, each offering its

own take on performance, relaxation or restorative travel. Experiences across the properties will range from magnesium vitality pools and spa grottos to beach clubs, curated dining and family-friendly escapes. New anchors include the AMAALA Yacht Club, poised to become a major Red Sea sailing hub, and Corallium, an immersive marine life attraction celebrating the region's biodiversity. Guests access the destination via Red Sea International Airport, now connected to major regional hubs. [Redseaglobal.com](https://www.redseaglobal.com)

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GOURMET

THE WORLD'S MOST DELICIOUS EXPERIENCES



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AFTERNOON STYLE
Manolo Blahnik teams up with The Lana, Dorchester Collection for a Marie Antoinette-inspired afternoon tea.

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MAGNIFIQUE MANAMA

Following in the footsteps of other GCC hotspots (namely, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait and Riyadh) Bahrain is getting its own La Petite Maison, the much adorned French-Mediterranean restaurant. From early 2027, you'll find it in Harbour Heights tower, a development neatly positioned on Bahrain Harbour on the waterfront of the kingdom's capital, Manama. The 135-cover venue will celebrate Europe's coastal cuisine and boast delightful views of the Persian Gulf—vistas that'll be best admired from the harbourside terrace. The new location reinforces the brand's global expansion into upscale seaside locales.

Lpmrestaurants.com

HERITAGE HOSPITALITY



Bab Samhan, the inaugural Luxury Collection hotel within the UNESCO World Heritage site of Diriyah, Saudi Arabia, has unveiled its new signature restaurant, Jareed Samhan. Harmonising with its historic surroundings, the eatery embraces traditional Saudi design and its menu focuses on comfortable Arabic classics created using enduring, time-

honoured recipes. The idea is that every dish tells a story of the country's rich culinary landscape. Guests can rediscover traditional favorites such as *kabsa* (a celebrated meat and rice dish), *jareesh* (made with broken wheat) and *muqalal* (an aromatic Arabic stew) all presented modernly but rooted in tradition. Marriott.com



FLOATING AFFAIR

Bar du Port (BDP) at Dubai Harbour has extended its unique French Riviera dining and drinks concept to the sea in alliance with Swiss Yachts. The Beirut-born restaurant's new, all-inclusive four-hour yacht experience features all the cuisine, cocktails and lively ambience of BDP on land. Each voyage is curated by Executive Chef Hadi Saroufim, complete with a dedicated bartender and a resident DJ. Guests can collaborate with the team to have a say on the menu and the direction the boat travels—the scenic route affords incredible views of The Palm's landmarks in style. Barduportdubai.com

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Cora Cora Maldives is 45-minutes by seaplane from Velana International Airport and located in the picturesque Raa Atoll. It's freedom time! The premium all-inclusive **Gourmet Meal Plan®** is available in every outlet and detail of the resort, giving guests the opportunity to experience an array of dining, relaxation and activity options.



[CORACORARESORTS.COM](https://www.coracoraresorts.com)

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 [coracoramaldives](https://www.facebook.com/coracoramaldives)

DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



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PRINCELY PRAGUE

The Czech capital is a place where gorgeous Baroque buildings meet magnificent cultural heritage.

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NORTHERN SOUL

A destination for all seasons, Harriet Shephard combines a cultural city break with on-piste thrills in Milan



PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK



Unwrap Maldives Magic
This Season, Shine Different



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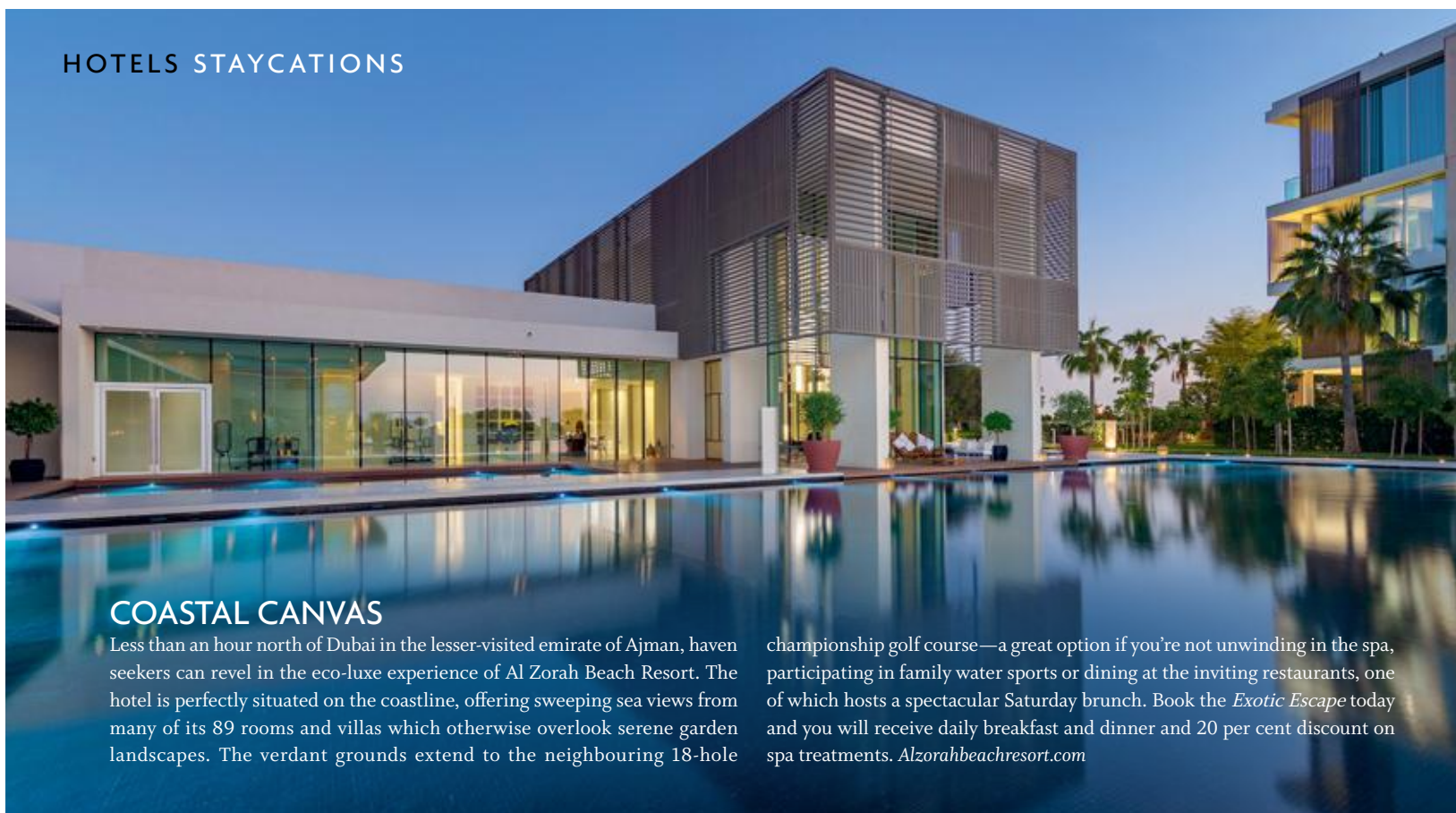


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CHRISTMAS CHEER

Enjoy the most wonderful time of the year in opulence at The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi.

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COASTAL CANVAS

Less than an hour north of Dubai in the lesser-visited emirate of Ajman, haven seekers can revel in the eco-luxe experience of Al Zorah Beach Resort. The hotel is perfectly situated on the coastline, offering sweeping sea views from many of its 89 rooms and villas which otherwise overlook serene garden landscapes. The verdant grounds extend to the neighbouring 18-hole

championship golf course—a great option if you're not unwinding in the spa, participating in family water sports or dining at the inviting restaurants, one of which hosts a spectacular Saturday brunch. Book the *Exotic Escape* today and you will receive daily breakfast and dinner and 20 per cent discount on spa treatments. Alzorahbeachresort.com

Arabian Journeys

Nights at the opera, savouring coastal bliss and discovering new definitions of luxury in this month's curated collection of Arabian Gulf stays

OMANI OVERTURE

Oman's capital is famed for its intrinsic, understated elegance and Mandarin Oriental Muscat has found a way to heighten that quality for its guests. The hotel, already consistently ranked as one of the city's most opulent stays, has elevated its status by forging an exclusive package with the Royal Opera House. The arrangement grants an unparalleled cultural experience, complete with tickets to the coveted Mandarin Oriental Balcony within the theatre's Royal Circle. Beyond the show, the package also affords discounts on dining and spa treatments, along with all-day access to the club lounge, serving everything from breakfast to evening cocktails. This is luxury, beautifully conducted. Mandarinoriental.com



RED SEA DEBUT

Just three months after Shura—the centre point of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea tourism project—started welcoming guests ashore, EDITION Hotels has opened the island's very first hotel. The 240-key property (including 53 suites) stands on a kilometre of private beachfront and the interiors mimic the environment by way of beachy hues and organic architecture that embrace quiet sophistication. Though your escape needn't be sleepy: guests at The Red Sea EDITION can enjoy the culinary buzz of New York-style restaurant, Anasa, and lively rhythms of Bali-inspired beach club, Jiwa, before recharging in the Recovery Dome—an immersive health experience that'll prepare you to do it all again the following day. Guests can enjoy an exclusive opening package, where they will receive daily breakfast, complimentary cabana access and SAR 375 resort credit (US \$100) during their stay. Marriott.com

KNOTS AWAY

Too often, a trip to the spa is overlooked when staying in a city hotel. That is precisely why Shangri-La's treatment-focused package, *Suite Dreams*, is dedicated to restoring the focus on physical therapy and well-being. Guests are invited to enjoy a luxurious suite stay that includes a complimentary, dedicated 60-minute therapeutic massage at the renowned Chi, The Spa. This ensures guests receive targeted physical attention, alleviating knots for a truly restorative experience—one made especially effective when followed by a trip to the hotel's glorious infinity pool, which offers an envy-inducing view of the Burj Khalifa. Shangri-la.com



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MARQUÉS DE RISCAL
ELCIEGO, SPAIN



LE GRAND
SARDINIA, ITALY

SPEND IT

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AND CHIC ESSENTIALS



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ELECTRICAL STORM
Lamborghini's battery
powered Revuelto

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ASTRAL

ACCENTS

Cosmic curiosities to add some sparkle to your ensembles for infinity and beyond



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- 1. Longines** Primaluna Moonphase is crafted using 48 blue sapphires, 14 diamond indexes, a celestial blue mother of pearl dial and stainless steel. A moonphase complication along with an alligator strap round off the design. Longines.com
- 2. Van Cleef & Arpels** Lady Arpels Planétarium is equipped with a planetarium module which allows the white gold 38mm watch to depict the positions of Venus, Mercury, the Moon and the Earth. Vancleefarpels.com
- 3. Jacob & Co** Astronomia Solar Zodiac is made up of 447 components and defined by its rotating planets, spinning moon, double-axis flying tourbillon and orbital zodiac dial. Jacobandco.com
- 4. TAG Heuer** Carrera Astronomer is a 39mm steel timepiece that observes the marque's affiliation with space exploration via a silver sunray brushed dial ornamented by a grand moonphase disc which showcases the lunar cycle. Tagheuer.com
- 5. Bremont** Terra Nova Jumping Hour Aventurine proudly champions the British brand's first frosted 904L steel case and is powered by its trademark Jumping Hour calibre, a movement that delivers precise jumps with mechanical clarity. Bremont.com
- 6. Blancpain** Villeret Quantième Phases de Lune aligns red gold with a Saturn brown, as well as a detailed moonphase and a calendar complication which sees a dedicated hand point to the date on the edge of the dial. Blancpain.com

CHOPARD'S MOON PHASE

Chopard, with muse Bella Hadid, introduces a dazzling first: the L'Heure du Diamant collection now includes a moonphase complication. The result is a diamond-encrusted celestial accessory—the ultimate statement of party season glamour. [Chopard.com](https://www.chopard.com)



BATTERIES INCLUDED

It's been far too long since Kris Karacinski got behind the wheel of a Lamborghini. After experiencing a number of new supercars recently, how does the Revuelto measure up?



JUMPING COUNTRIES



From Australia to England with a few stops in between, this *Kangaroo Route* reboot is a glamorous, globetrotting saga through the skies

Words by JOSEPH FURNESS

DINNER BY THE PYRAMIDS; an evening at the residence of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; a private jaunt around the Vatican. These priceless experiences form just a fraction of the Captain's Choice *Pioneering Spirit of the Kangaroo Route* itinerary, which departs from Sydney on 3 February 2026.

This 14-day journey is a smart reimagining of the iconic 20th-century Qantas 'Kangaroo Route', which had its hard launch in 1947 after being conceived a decade earlier. The original passage was more an endeavour: just 29 passengers were welcomed aboard a Lockheed Constellation aircraft which made seven stops between Oceania and West Europe on the journey from Sydney to London.

Today, a privately chartered Qantas A330-300 is romanticising this historic voyage with purposeful stops in sensational cities across the

Eastern Hemisphere before finally touching down in London. And every detail is included: Business Class-standard dining, guided sightseeing, transfers, tips and five-star accommodation at luxurious properties by brands including Shangri-La and The Ritz-Carlton.

After a brief look around an early Qantas aircraft hangar in Darwin, the first international stop is spirited Singapore, offering cultural exploration followed by dinner beneath the Pandora-style Supertrees. The journey then heads inland to Kolkata, India, where days are dedicated to visiting the Victoria Memorial, the Indian Museum (Asia's first museum) and the former residence of Mother Teresa, and the night is devoted to a Bengali gathering by the palm-lined poolside.

The schedule then turns to Sri Lanka. Here, you'll investigate the UNESCO-protected city

of Galle or meet a former World Cup-winning cricketer, followed by joining the country's PM for dinner at their 200-year-old mansion. Next, behold ancient sights in Cairo, Egypt, including privileged access to the foot of the Sphinx and a private culinary experience by the Pyramids. From the sands of Egypt, the A330 crosses the Mediterranean to Europe. The first stop is Rome for an after-hours tour of the Pope's home, followed by Toulouse to see the Airbus production facility.

The grand finale is London, featuring exclusive use of a quintessentially English estate and a farewell affair held under the wings of a preserved Concorde, where you'll start to gain perspective on the experience of a lifetime. Prices start from US \$33,350 per person.

Captains-choice.com



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