

Editor's letter

We know that you like to be ahead of the curve, to discover off-the-radar experiences and genuinely connect with extraordinary places. That's why, for this very first issue of Passport, we've curated those travel stories that we're truly excited about for this spring, written by the very best voices in the industry - from London's sparkling hotel scene, to why hot-air ballooning over Tanzania really ought to be on your bucket list this year. Read, explore, be inspired... we're here to help you plan your next adventure.

Jules Maury
Head of SDP

Contents

Five things we're

From the world's most fabulous new openings, to wildlife experiences to blow your mind

London's calling

The capital is bristling with new luxury hotels, but are they any good?

Pack like a pro

Martha Ward, Global Fashion Director at Condé Nast Traveller, on what fashion editors pack for their city breaks

13 Andia's new gateway
A new direct flight to Bangalore is

opening up India's South, but linger in the city and you'll be enchanted

Take to the skies

This SDP world-first balloon adventure in the wilds of Ruaha in Tanzania does not scrimp on comfort...

18 Africa's rising star

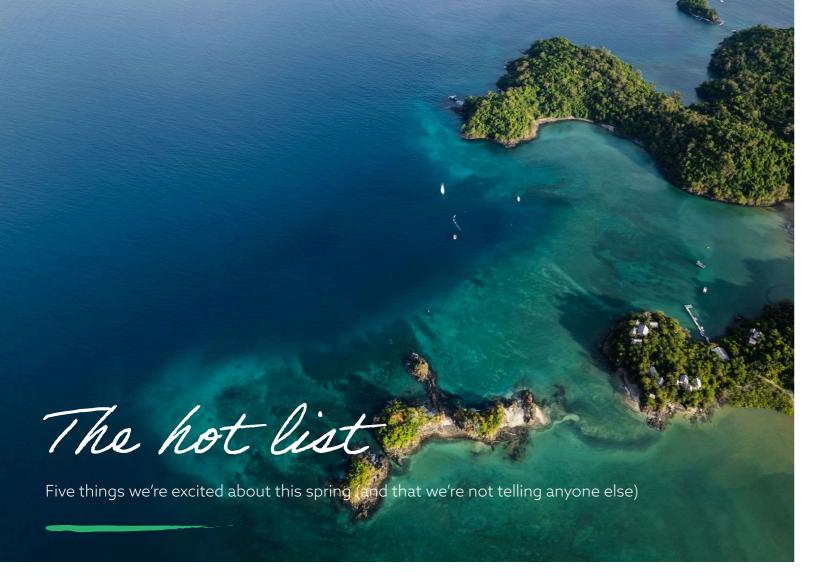
Four more reasons why Tanzania should be top of your bucket list this year, by Sarah Marshall

21 How to deal with jet lag

Susan D'Arcy, The Sunday Times's luxury and wellness expert, tells us what really works, plus her must-take beauty products

Exclusive SDP events

What's happening when on the busy SDP calendar





Go wild in Costa Rica and Panama

Named by Travel + Leisure as 2024's Destination of the Year, Costa Rica has long had our hearts, and it's top of our list this year for its off-the-chart wildlife encounters, including a truly unique dolphin experience. Our expert spotters take to the water a couple of days before your arrival to find the world's largest megapods off the Pacific coast, a carnival of thousands of dolphins flipping, spinning and twisting in the waves. You'll be zipped right to the heart of the action, to join their infectious frolicking with a Seabob.

Other bucket list activities include climbing forest giants, ziplining through primary rainforest, enjoying a meal with the indigenous Cabécar people, and helping conservationists set camera traps for joyful spider monkeys.

Then it's a quick flight to Panama to ultra-private Islas Secas, a lush playground where 13 of the 14 pristine private islands have been left untouched. Host to just 24 guests, this is the place for relaxed beach days and epic marine safaris, including some of the best scuba diving in the Eastern Pacific. And new for this year is the incredible Residence, an exclusive-use, cutting-edge villa at the zenith of the resort.

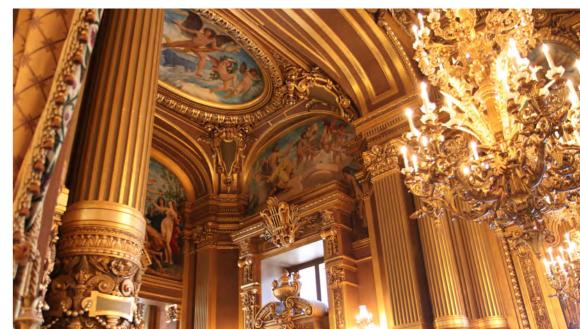
2 get sporty in France

All eyes will be on Paris for this summer's Olympics, but we'll let you in on a secret: for a truly authentic French experience, don't go then. The city will be gridlocked, the hotels packed and the sites all but impossible to see. For a truly immersive and authentic sporting experience, we've a much better suggestion - a combination of highoctane excitement at the Monaco Grand Prix followed by exclusive access to the Roland-Garros French Open.

The experience is of course VIP+ throughout, including meet-and-greets with players, as well as any number of bespoke add-ons, from vintage car test drives to behindthe-scenes tours of the Paris Opera in the company of a ballerina. It's the very best of France's buzzing sporting calendar, done your way.



AROVE Combine the Monaco Grand Prix with Paris's French Open



RIGHT Join a ballerina on a tour of Paris's Opera



One of the stylish new restaurants at Janu

3 Tokyo through a different lens

This year, we're offering a new narrative on the fascinating Japanese capital with our very own fixer with contacts like no one else. Spend the day with former Prime Minister Hosokawa Morihori in his private atelier, watching him work on his ceramics and calligraphy, before enjoying a cup of tea and a chat in his Tea House, where he met with Jacque Chirac. Or learn the secrets of Urushi, Japanese lacquer art, with the officially-designated Living National Treasure, the revered master Murose Kazimi himself.

We can also get you access to Shinkiraku, regarded as the finest and most exclusive restaurant in Japan, and only possible to visit with a personal invitation from a patron. All this and more can be enjoyed from the soon-to-open Janu, a vibrant modern beacon in the Azabudai Hills, the flagship of the new global sister brand to Aman.

Janu is the flagship of the exciting new sister brand to Aman



RIGHT The pool and wellness area at Janu

4 Culture and wilderness in Oz

Australia's most exciting openings include the rebirth of the extraordinary Southern Ocean Lodge, four years after the devastating bushfires on Kangaroo Island. With a front-row view of the dazzling ocean from your bed and at-your-doorstep access to the area's fascinating wildlife (this is known as Australia's Galapagos; we can arrange experiences like walking amongst sea lions), it offers the perfect addition to a few days in Sydney.

In the city, SDP members are treated to a menu of fantastic experiences, from all-access tours of the Sydney Opera House, to bespoke picnics on tiny Clark Island in Sydney Harbour, looking back at iconic Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. Next, get swept to the tropical delights of North Queensland, to the justopened Pelorus Private Island and experience the Great Barrier Reef in true privacy. With just one four-bedroom residence, everything is entirely tailormade and the wonders of the reef are there for the taking.

RFI OW

Relax and restore on the long sweep of Gigaro beach



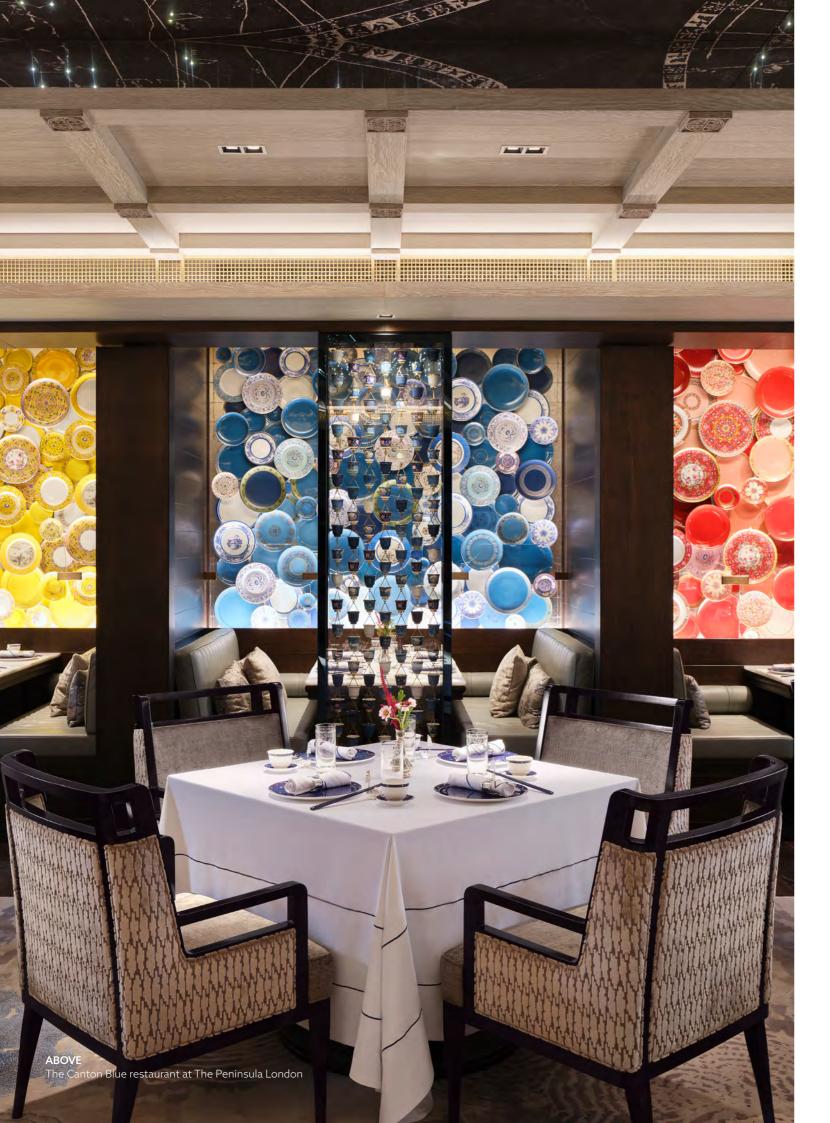


Southern Ocean Lodge has one of Australia's most spectacular settings

5 Curated Côte d'Azur wellness

Close to the action of Saint Tropez yet far from madding crowds, Lily of the Valley is one of the most restorative hotels on the French Riviera. Overlooking the long, golden sweep of Gigaro beach (a well-kept local secret), this luxurious bolthole is devoted to wellness, designed by Philippe Starck to effortlessly blend with its gorgeously wild surroundings.

New for this year is an effective menu of expertlycurated wellness programmes, from better ageing to healthy, sustainable weight management, with a range of outdoor fitness sessions such as aqua boxing, sea wading, Nordic walking and sunset yoga, coupled with regenerative spa treatments within the 2,000 sgm spa and fitness space. Drink in the pine-scented Mediterranean air and let the combination of resultsdriven activities and nurturing meals work their magic.



London's calling

Steve King, Contributing Editor at Condé Nast Traveller, gives the inside scoop on London's hottest new hotels



The Concierge desk at Raffles London at The OWO

hatever else may be happening in the world, the world always wants to know what's happening in London - and to go there to find out, and to stay somewhere fabulous while doing so. The past year's openings have been exceptional. The gregarious maximalism of Broadwick Soho; the sustainable sumptuousness of 1 Hotel, opposite The Ritz; the leafy luxe of The BoTree in Marylebone; the unrepentant Sloaneyness of At Sloane.

Two more of the new lot, The Peninsula London and Raffles London at The OWO, possess a level of polish to rival that of the city's finest heritage hotels, such as Claridge's - which has itself undergone a revamp so significant as to merit consideration as both an old hotel and a new one.

When The Peninsula London opened its doors on Hyde Park Corner it was heralded as an instant classic. Or rather, an instant classic that arrived after a 35-year wait for the right site to become available - and an instant classic that inherited an almost century-old tradition at the top of the hotel game which began at The Peninsula Hong Kong in 1928.

The distinctive Peninsula pages in their white livery and pill-box hats who greet you at every turn strike a note of impeccable crispness that rings through

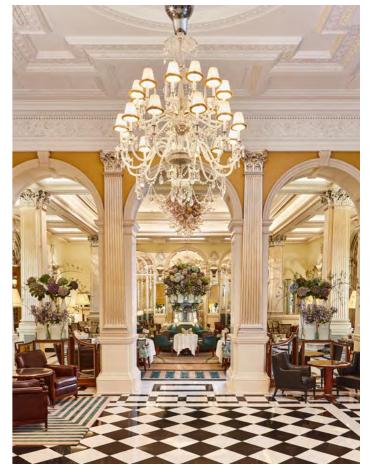
the entire hotel. It is an essay in pure geometries, shimmering surfaces and, in the Peter Marinodesigned bedrooms, a certain kind of up-to-date, low-key lusciousness, at once angular and sensuous.

There are also, here and there, elements of whimsy. This quality is on display in the hotel's ravishingly pretty Canton Blue restaurant (you may never look at a teacup in the same way again) and in its rooftop bar, Brooklands, a celebration of vintage cars and flying machines, with two Michelin stars and views over London that will lift your spirits.

The Old War Office, or OWO, on Whitehall has a staircase of marble and alabaster to rival that of any Belle Époque opera house - but until recently you needed high-level security clearance to see it.

Boy Scout messengers once hurtled around its corridors on bicycles, delivering memos to Winston Churchill. Also, briefly, Lawrence of Arabia and, most glamorous of

Claridge's famous checkerboard lobby





RIGHT The marble entrance to Claridge's Ballroom



The Suite Lounge at Raffles London at The OWO



The rooftop bar at Brooklands at The Peninsula

all, Christine Granville, a Polish-born British secret agent (Leonardo DiCaprio was first in). Designed by superyacht who inspired lan Fleming's first Bond heroine. It is fitting that the loveliest suite in The OWO is the one with her name on it. Few among us could be more deserving of pampering in the hotel's magnificent Guerlain spa.

For all its oaky splendour, there is about the place a lightness of touch. The OWO maintains a respectful in which to make love not war. That said, if a well-dressed stranger slips you an invitation to a rendezvous in the Spy a new Claridge's is also there to be discovered. Bar in the basement, by all means do accept.

While Claridge's undeniably has the aristocratic good looks, sybaritic heart and sequinned soul of a 1920s flapper, it also has her restless soul and appetite includes The Connaught and The Berkeley. for novelty.

The just-completed mega-renovation, which saw the addition of five storeys below and three on top. has increased the hotel's size by 50 percent and added 72 rooms to its inventory, along with a stateof-the-art spa, a buzzy ArtSpace café and gallery, a luminous cocktail bar known as the Painter's Room The hotel is a cousin of Maison Estelle, a wildly and a triumphantly revamped Claridge's Restaurant. The piece de resistance is the £60,000 a night Penthouse

specialist Rémi Tessier, it includes a lake and a grand piano on the roof, and 75 works by Damien Hirst, many from his 2017 exhibition "Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable".

The Penthouse is all treasures and no wreck, though still unbelievable. As is the fact that, elsewhere, not a swirl dialogue with the past but has become, happily, a place of Victorian gold leaf has been disturbed nor silvery Art Deco gleam tarnished. The Claridge's you loved is intact;

> As, come springtime, will an entirely contemporary sister hotel on Knightsbridge, The Emory, the latest addition to the Maybourne portfolio, which as well as Claridge's

> Nothing nourishes affection for the city like time spent in the country. Make sure to include Estelle Manor in your London plans. Though convenient to the capital, it seems light years from it - an imposing Jacobean Revival affair set within 3,000 acres of Oxfordshire parkland.

> fashionable members' club in Mayfair. The masterminds

behind both properties are Ennismore founder Sharan Pasricha and his wife Eiesha Bhatia Pasricha.

At the Manor as at the Maison they have pulled off a nifty trick: not only to retain but also to elevate the grandeur of a stately pile, while simultaneously imbuing it with a sense of playfulness, bordering at times on mischief.

Though the Manor accommodates families well (there are miniature Land-Rovers), it feels distinctly grown-up. Even the candy-striped parasols by the pool transmit a louche, anything-goes vibe. And yet it is manifestly a place that takes design, service and food extremely seriously.

All of which comes together to dazzling effect in the Billiards Room, a gorgeous jewel box of a space where, though you cannot play billiards, you can dine on worldclass dim-sum, then dance till dawn.

Meanwhile, back in town, there's plenty more to look forward to in the year ahead, with new outposts for Six Senses, Maybourne, Mandarin Oriental, Park Hyatt, Rosewood and Waldorf Astoria. Really, what is it about London? Never enough rooms at the inn and always room for more inns.



The outdoor pool at Estelle Manor, near London

SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 10

Pack like a pro

What does the fashion set take on a city break? Martha Ward, Global Fashion Director at Condé Nast Traveller, shares her tips for this season

o need to get yourself in a tizz over what to pack for a spring city break. Keep it chic but simple, timeless but elegant. Versatility is key, and these pieces will carry you from day to night and from one city to the next. Not to mention into next season, too...



Madeleine

Thompson beanie

With the unpredictable spring

climate, it's always wise to

have a hat to hand to keep out

any icy drafts. Keep it chic with

this unisex stripy beanie from

cashmere queen Madeleine

Madeleine Thompson

Victoria Beckham

Move towards spring with these beautifully-tailored, high-waisted blush pants: great for day with a flat and night with a heel. There's a matching waistcoat and blazer if you want to go all the way with a three-piece, and they're equally useful as separates.£490 / US\$614 / S\$828, Net A Porter



De Bonne Fracture Gilst

An extra layer is always a good idea so a lightweight gilet is always a great addition. The pockets on this melange wool creation for men make it all the more handy.

£445 / US\$557 / S\$752, De Bonne Facture



Métier leather bag

Limited editions are where it's at. The hottest collaboration is luxury leather bag brand Métier and jeweller extraordinaire Fernando Jorge. His sculptural hardware is an exquisite addition to a timeless and logo-less (hurrah) bag. This also doubles up as a clutch so it will take you elegantly into evening. £1,550 / US\$1,940 /



Luna slippers

It's no surprise that the sales of flat shoes are soaring so you'll be bang on trend whizzing around town in these super-chic Luna

slippers from the queen of Mary Janes. A modern take on the

ballet flat. £355 / US\$444 / S\$599

Le Monde Béryl

Dior White Shirt

A great white shirt is for life, so always worth investing in. This menswear piece in cotton poplin is distinguished by its inverted collar. £590 / US\$740 / S\$996, Dior



Joseph cashmere coat

Wrap yourself up in this doubleface cashmere coat with dressinggown-style belt (detachable) and all-important deep pockets. Another timeless and versatile number perfect for creating a capsule wardrobe. £1,195 / US\$1,496 / S\$2,018, Joseph



Globe Trotter luggage Keep everything compact with this

snazzy carry-on piece from Globe-Trotter. The latest collaboration, with Golf Le Fleur, is an extra fresh take on the classic piece from the iconic luggage makers. £1,695 / US\$2,123 / S\$2,862, Globe-Trotter



S\$2,617, Métier



Brunsllo Cucinslli Scarf You'll be reaching for this sumptuous men's cashmere scarf way beyond spring. Cosy and versatile, the grey hue means it works with anything, anytime. £560 / US\$701 / S\$945, Brunello Cucinelli @ Mr Porter

SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 12 11 SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024

India's new gateway

A new direct flight to Bangalore is opening up India's South, but linger in the city and you'll be enchanted, says Cosmo Brockway, Contributing Editor at *The World of Interiors*

angalore, or Bengaluru as it is now officially known, is becoming even more accessible this year. With the launch of a direct flight by Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, the 'Garden City' is set to be the hot Indian destination for 2024.

Bangalore is a cultural feast for both first-time and seasoned India visitors. Celebrated for its lush, flower-filled parks and relaxed energy, this is a city to be taken in slowly. The buzzy capital of Karnataka state and India's Silicon Valley, the city has a rich colonial past coupled with a thoroughly contemporary outlook. A beguiling blend of 19th-century Raj-era bungalows (one of which, Raintree, has been transformed into a fabulous shopping emporium and café – worth seeking out) and striking modern architecture, all nestled in verdant boulevards, Bangalore is a wide-skied and pleasant city to wander in – more so than its northern counterparts.

BELOW

The soaring, intricate Chamundeshwari Temple





ABOVE The waterfalls of Karnataka



It is also, for good reason, known as the Gateway of works by Steve McCurry and Sebastião Salgado, to the South: many of South India's highlights are within masterpieces by famed artists Tyeb Mehta and Jamini an easy drive, including the sandalwood-scented city Roy, mingled with spectacular phulkari and kalamkari of Mysore, home to the flamboyant Mysore Palace and textiles, the offerings are on a par with anything you glorious Chamundeshwari Temple, while further afield might see in London or New York. the pristine wildlife, trekking and alpine-like hill towns

offer a true retreat from the madding crowds. This is a Later that day, as the light grew low over the jacaranda gentler India, laced with sweet coffee in brass tumblers, and gulmohar trees, I found myself with dye-coloured fingers bent over the block-printing table of Tharangini Studio. Set in a 70-acre private estate, this women-Woven into the cityscape are immersive experiences run studio is part of the innovative Makers' Trail, where for SDP members. I spent one of the most rewarding guests can get involved alongside the artisans. mornings I can remember on a private tour with

Director Kamini Sawhney of the new Museum of Art Launched by the founding Editor of Architectural Digest India, the trail offers a chance to explore some of the city's finest craftspeople with an expert SDP insider. In the tile-roofed courtyard of artist Abhishek Ganesh of Indian art, textiles and photography. From haunting Jayashree, I watched as he reverently handled his canvases, glowing with indigo, while he talked of being inspired by childhood visits to temples and the throbbing notes of Carnatic music.

Going much deeper than a series of studio visits, Makers' Trail offers a soulful appreciation for the city's craftsmanship. The impending sadness of my departure was dispelled the following morning as I sat cross-legged at the Nrityagram Dance Village, a school for Odissi dancing, an art form descending from temple rituals.

Here, among the flashing silks, jasmine garlands and hennaed hands of the dancers, the spirit of the place came alive to the rhythm of a hypnotic tabla beat. Like me, you will be planning your return before the plane has lifted into the tropical sky.

BELOW Buzzy Bangalore is known as the Garden City



and Photography (MAP), a vision of collector Abhishek Poddar. Its much-vaunted opening has endowed the city with one of the country's most astonishing collections

steaming dosas and wide smiles.

15 SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 16





ushing boundaries has been taken to the next These include helping scientists set up camera traps level with this world-first experience by SDP. In this year's history-making expedition, a small handful of lucky members will be able to take a once-ina-lifetime hot air balloon safari across the mighty Ruaha National Park, the largest in Tanzania at almost one-anda-half times the size of the (much busier) Serengeti.

This adventure doesn't scrimp on comfort, offering a true bucket-list safari coupled with some of Tanzania's finest and most remote lodges. The lucky few - just six - who join will glide over the extraordinary wilderness of the savannah for two hours every day, with safari experiences on the ground that go well beyond game drives.

to catch images of elusive wildlife such as wild dog, gliding along waterways by boat, taking night drives with thermal cameras, and enjoying immersive community experiences that shine a light on the park's fantastic conservation work. Accompanying the group will be a very special photographer and videographer, documenting the entire expedition.

From tracking game on foot with one of Africa's most experienced guides, to floating silently above some of the world's largest herds of elephant, this is a world-first bucket-list safari like no other. scottdunn.com/scott-dunn-private

Africa's rising stars

Africa expert Sarah Marshall shares four more reasons to visit Tanzania this year

A truly mobile great migration

Although a guaranteed crowd-pleaser, the great migration is far from predictable, especially given our changing climate. Legendary Expeditions has adapted to the ever-evolving situation with a new choice of mobile sites to keep tabs on those fickle wildebeest. A highlight is their southern concession, the only exclusive-use location to view wildebeest calving in their thousands between January and March. Night drives - a rarity in the Serengeti - provide a widescreen view of the high number of hunts taking place at this time.

BELOW Poolside game viewing at Chem Chem



Flamingos gather on Lake Manyara

2 Slowing down is gaining pace

Exhausted by obsessively chasing wildlife sightings, conservationist and lodge owner Fabio Bausch pioneered the idea of the slow safari where the emphasis is on fully immersive nature experiences that go well beyond ticking off the big five. Instead of focussing on game drives at Chem Chem Lodge, located within an ancient elephant corridor on the edges of Lake Manyara, days are spent exploring the concept of Ponya Living, which means "healing" in Swahili. Guests can choose from a curated menu of spa treatments, healthy dining and mindful experiences, including walking with the Maasai and tracking giraffes on foot.

3 A rustic revamp in Rusha

Ask a seasoned Tanzanian guide to pick their favourite park and it will probably be wild and vast Ruaha. Only a handful of camps operate in areas slightly smaller than Costa Rica and is home to 10% of the world's lion population. The newest addition, opening July 1, is Asilia Africa's six-person exclusive-use Kokoko camp, on the banks of the Mwagusi River. Walk and drive (both day and night) with a dedicated guide and pull back each tent's retractable canopy to gaze at the stars.



BELOW Ruaha, Kokoko camp



4 Setting a new standard for private viewing

Far from the circus of the central Serengeti, Singita's portfolio of camps and lodges in the Grumeti Reserve are known for delivering sensational (and ultra-exclusive) safari experiences. Opening mid-May, their new 10-guest Milele Villa, set on the slopes of Sasakwa Hill, will take things to another level. The private home comes with a fitness centre, cinema room and full team. VIP viewing of the great wildebeest migration, which passes through from June to July, is possible from every deck, around the clock.





How to (genuinely) beat jet lag

Susan D'Arcy, The Sunday Times's luxury and wellness expert, tells us what really works

argot Robbie does shots, Gwyneth Paltrow I reset my watch to the time in my arrival destination We're talking jet lag cures here. Obviously.

Like the Barbie star, I'm partial to a pick-me-up hit of ginger though I'll pass on Gwynnie's "grounding" tip (standing barefoot on a lawn to soak up the earth's sugar barley boiled sweet as much as the next monarch, the truth is there isn't a "cure" for jet lag.

You can certainly tame its horrors though.

First, know your enemy. All you really need to remember is that jet lag is your body clock's inability to adapt to the rapid change in light-dark cycles caused by a dramatic shift in time zones.

To reset quicker, get strategic about exposure to light during the flight and after touchdown and thereby avoid spending days living through your own painful impersonation of Richard E Grant in Withnail and I.

grass, the late Queen Elizabeth II hard candy. as I board, and behave accordingly. So, for example, on an afternoon flight from London to Bangkok, as it will already be evening in Thailand I will eat pre-flight, skip the onboard meal service, don my eye mask and ear plugs and go straight to sleep.

electrical charge and be re-energised). And while I like a l'm one of those annoying types who can nod off before the flight attendant has pointed out the emergency exits. If you aren't annoying, congratulations and go to rock-star mode - wear sunglasses on the plane to mimic darkness. You may feel silly but that's infinitely preferable to jet lag.

> Some seasoned travellers swear by melatonin pills to encourage sleep, but I think good, old-fashioned, readilyavailable caffeine is just as effective. I avoid tea and coffee before a flight east, and drink it in moderation when flying west to stay alert.

> The good news is I've never found a glass or two of alcohol makes any difference to jet lag. Cheers.

tet glowing, on and off the plane



The Dew Mist

Spray this miracle mist at arm's length regularly during a flight and you (and, depending on your aim, possibly your neighbour, too) will disembark with glowing skin.

£64 / US\$64 / S\$108 50ml; seedtoskin.com



The Ankey List Caffeind Tye Cream

The only bags we want to travel with are by Dior. Apply this cream to avoid unwanted morningafter the-flight-before puffy eyes.

£9.99 / US\$412.50 / S\$17 15ml; uk.theinkevlist.com



The Brilliant Prime Radiance Serums

These single-use sachets slip easily into your carry-on and are so hydrating it's like your skin has been hosed down by the fire service. £60 / US\$75 / S\$101; 7 doses, noblepanacea.com



Jade Gua Sha Massage Tool

Gua sha is a mini facelift in five minutes. This stone lifts, sculpts and boosts circulation ensuring radiant skin. Put it in your minibar fridge on arrival to get extra bang for your buck.

£14.50 / US\$18 / S\$24.50; greenpeople.co.uk



Dr Barbara Sturm Hyaluronic Serum

This is the celebrity facialist's favourite for a reason: nothing smooths your skin better. Apply to damp skin, seal in with moisturiser and your face will look like it's had a good iron.

£250 / US\$313 /S\$422 30ml; en.drsturm.com



SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024 22 21 SCOTT DUNN PRIVATE PASSPORT | MARCH 2024

In the know

We've a host of exclusive events coming up on the SDP calendar, but spaces are limited...

10 April, Hong Kong

Get the inside track on what it's really like to experience Antarctica at this exclusive members' dinner with White Desert, the world-leading expedition organisers, including an immersive VR experience.

24 April, London

An epicurean evening of French Classics, starting with Champagne from Pol Roger and caviar by Volzhenka. This will be followed by an array of superlative French wines presented by Hedonism's expert sommelier in discussion with Martin Heidsieck, 6th generation member of the Pol Roger family.

2 July, London

Enjoy a Greek culinary odyssey at one of London's finest restaurants, Estiatorio Milos, located in the heart of Piccadilly, while SDP experts and our friends at One & Only answer all your travel questions.

14-19 August, California

Explore the world's most prestigious motoring experience at Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance with House of Robb. From tasting sessions and curated tours to expert panel discussions, this provides a fascinating insight to the exhilarating world of collectors' cars.

Like the look of what you see?

Get in touch and we'll book you in to the right insider event for you...







