

# ALL OUT ADVENTURE

As the world opens up, choose that longed-for trip wisely, says *Holly Rubenstein*



Take a mokoro canoe to explore the rich wildlife of the Okavango Delta at Jao camp (below)

## 1 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE BOTSWANA

Long considered one of Botswana's finest safari spots, an \$11 million rebuild last year has elevated Jao camp to the ultimate wildlife adventure destination. The owners' aim to 'create a bush retreat that would appeal to the increasingly design-savvy traveller, but would last and be more sustainable' delivers on all fronts.

Situated in the heart of the Okavango Delta, the camp's aesthetic is inspired by its rich natural surroundings. Entirely solar powered, it's a light-impact camp that minimises its footprint every step of the way. Pick between five tented suites and two private villas, each with a private plunge pool and terrace, as well as a car, guide, chef and butler.

There are numerous ways to experience the abundant wildlife, and get a shot at spotting the Big Five, from thrilling game drives and day excursions to fauna-rich Hunda Island (gourmet picnic in tow), to climbing aboard a traditional mokoro canoe and taking to the water. If all that excitement sounds exhausting, escape to the camp's sensational spa, hidden beneath the boughs of African ebony trees, overlooking the soothing water below.

**BOOK IT:** From approx. £1,088 pp per night sharing in November 2020, all inclusive with twice-daily camp activities, park fees and all local drinks. [wilderness-safaris.com](http://wilderness-safaris.com)



Hire HMS Gassten for up to 10 people to explore Norway's fjords and icy mountains (below)



## 2 THE GREAT OUTDOORS NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Western Norway and its majestic fjords is one of the world's most beautiful destinations, with towering mountains that plunge into glistening turquoise waters. The launch of HMS Gassten, a newly renovated exclusive hire boat, gives small groups the opportunity to reach otherwise inaccessible spots, all from the comfort of a five-bedroom floating home. Guests can also be confident in the knowledge that it's one of the most environmentally progressive boat operators in the world, with tours designed to have the least impact on the fjords.

Visit in the summer for endless daylight, Viking BBQs and mountain hikes. The winter offers guide-led access to the deserted slopes of the majestic Sunnmore Alps, before returning to the ship for candlelit feasts – the epitome of hygge.

**BOOK IT:** From £37,500 for one week with up to ten people, with full crew, meals, e-bikes and watersports equipment. [redsavannah.com](http://redsavannah.com)

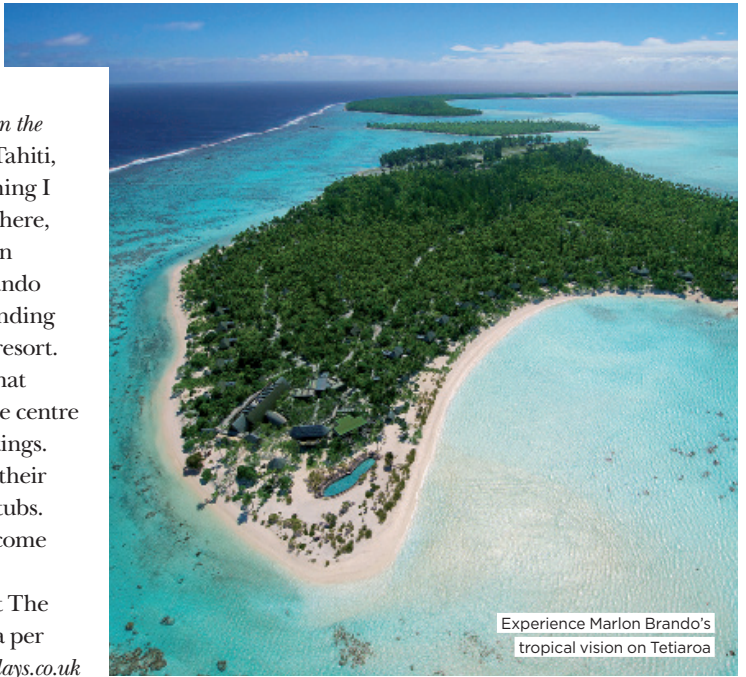
**3 FAR-FLUNG ECO PARADISE**  
**FRENCH POLYNESIA**

When Marlon Brando arrived to film *Mutiny on the Bounty* on the atoll of Tetiaroa, 30 miles from Tahiti, he fell in love, ‘[It’s] more gorgeous than anything I anticipated,’ he said. ‘If the mermaids can’t sing for me here, Christ they never will.’ Having also fallen for his Tahitian co-star, who he later married, a couple of years later Brando bought the atoll, returning throughout his life, and founding The Brando, a self-sustainable and carbon neutral eco-resort.

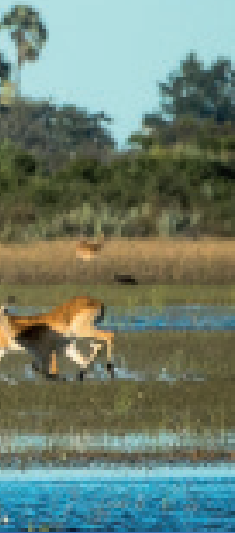
It comprises 12 tropical islands, protected by a reef that teems with tropical fish and forms a dazzling lagoon, the centre of diving, water sports, boat trips and exotic birding outings.

Thirty-five beach front villas offer total privacy, with their own stretches of beach, plunge pools and outdoor bathtubs. The newly opened three-bedroom Brando Residences come complete with a team of dedicated chefs and butlers.

**BOOK IT:** From £12,795 for seven nights all inclusive at The Brando, including all flights, one spa treatment per villa per day and one excursion per person per day. [turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://turquoiseholidays.co.uk)



Experience Marlon Brando's tropical vision on Tetiaroa



Find romance and an abundance of nature on North Island

**4 LOVERS' PARADISE**  
**NORTH ISLAND, SEYCHELLES**

North Island is the spectacular Indian Ocean retreat that hosted the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their honeymoon – and later, Hollywood royalty, with George and Amal Clooney. Each spacious villa is surrounded by a few acres of jungle garden with its own pool and beach access, so that guests rarely encounter other visitors.

The island’s extraordinary nature has undergone an extensive rehabilitation project in recent years, so that endangered Seychelles flora and fauna could be reintroduced. Now, birdlife thrives, hawksbill and green turtles nest on the beach and 100-year-old giant tortoises roam the island.

Plunging into its pristine turquoise waters, divers and snorkellers can spot whale sharks and manta rays, as well as a cornucopia of tropical fish. And with the island’s proximity to the equator, it’s one of the best places in the world to be at sundown. How’s that for romance.

**BOOK IT:** From £5,816 per night B&B with private butler, a villa golf buggy and complimentary activities. [north-island.com](http://north-island.com)

DISCOVER A NEW GREEK ISLAND

The beautiful Greek island of Alonissos in the Sporades sits alongside Skopelos and Skiathos but has remained somewhat under the radar. As well as boasting some quiet, unspoiled beaches, it’s one of the Med’s greenest isles, home to the region’s largest national marine park and a vast array of colourful flowers, archaeological ruins, and marine life (including the Mediterranean monk seal). For a truly unique holiday experience, dive into its new underwater museum, the site of ancient cargo ship remains thought to have sunk in the 5th century BC. With very few major hotels on the island, try one of The Thinking Traveller’s luxury villas instead. [thethinkingtraveller.com](http://thethinkingtraveller.com)



JURA



KOLOKITHI BAY