



AZURE

The Americas



AZURE

Last year we were excited to welcome, to our team, a specialist in Latin American travel and to introduce these diverse and colourful countries to the Azure Collection. They've proved so popular that we've extended our coverage of Chile and Argentina with more resorts, and we've also added two brand new destinations: Guatemala is a land of 'eternal spring', with a landscape of volcanoes, lakes, rivers and mountains framing archaeological wonders of the Mayan culture. Belize, in Central America, is blessed with a vast reef system of hundreds of islands of coral, so also extends our choice of stunning beach destinations.

Our team of specialists has also expanded, with a dedicated focus on North America. Our portfolio of resorts in the US and Canada now allows us to offer the most discerning travellers a truly tailor-made and experiential taste of each destination. We love nothing more than sharing our experience and expertise and wherever you want to go in the Americas, and whatever type of holiday you want when you get there, we can create a bespoke experience for you. Five star retail therapy in New York perhaps? A luxury wilderness break in the splendour of the national parks? Or a taste of Hollywood glamour, a relaxing beach paradise, or the chance to try the Wild West life of a cowboy? It's all here.

At Azure, our version of the American Dream is limited only by your imagination, and that's no limit at all, because our specialists, with their intimate knowledge and boundless enthusiasm, can give you plenty of ideas, whether you're looking for magic and romance, thrilling adventures, or a family holiday of a lifetime.



Jayne O'Gorman *Managing Director*



CONTENTS

LATIN AMERICA	Page 4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Page 34
CHILE	Page 6	EAST COAST	Page 36
ARGENTINA	Page 10	FLORIDA	Page 40
BRAZIL	Page 14	THE WESTERN USA	Page 42
PERU	Page 18	HAWAII	Page 48
ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS	Page 24	THE DEEP SOUTH	Page 50
COSTA RICA	Page 26	NATIONAL PARKS	Page 52
BELIZE	Page 30	RANCH AND ADVENTURE	Page 54
GUATEMALA	Page 32	CANADA AND ALASKA	Page 56

For full Booking Terms & Conditions and General Information please visit www.azurecollection.com or call 01244 322770. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office issues essential travel advice on destinations, which includes information on passports, visas, health, safety & security and more. Please visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice





World Traveler Plus



BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Partner

When it comes to arriving in style and comfort, British Airways believes the sky's the limit. Code-sharing with Iberia and American Airlines, the group offers one of the most extensive worldwide networks. Azure Collection is an official Preferred Partner of British Airways with access to the best fares and highest service; together we can take you there.



Club World

Airline partnership and codeshare with

American Airlines 

IBERIA 

TELEPHONE 01244 322770

LATIN AMERICA

Latin America is an exotic continent steeped in history, with a dramatically diverse landscape.

Explorers have travelled to Peru for centuries and the fabled mist-shrouded Inca city of Machu Picchu, high in the mountains, is a mecca for trekkers and adventurers. But there's jungle and dramatic canyons to discover as well. Brazil is renowned for being an energetic carnival country, famous for its football and for the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro. There are sleepy fishing villages and sweeping golden beaches too, wetlands and waterfalls, and the culture is as colourful as the abundant wildlife. Costa Rica is home to the philosophy of 'pura vida' (pure life), near perfect conical volcanoes and an astonishing five percent of the world's flora and fauna.

The second largest country in Latin America is Argentina, and at its heart is the historic capital of Buenos Aires, it feels European but with a fierce Latin flair and is often heralded as the Paris of the South. Cross the Andes, and Chile stretches like a ribbon from the world's driest desert through nearly every ecosystem to the windswept wilds of Patagonia in the south, not forgetting mysterious Easter Island floating out in the South Pacific Ocean. Ecuador is dwarfed by these larger neighbours, but it's still hugely diverse and its highlight is the wildlife sanctuary of the Galapagos Islands.





BELIZE

GUATEMALA

COSTA RICA

ECUADOR AND
THE GALAPAGOS

PERU

BRAZIL

CHILE

ARGENTINA

CHILE

The country of Chile runs like a narrow ribbon between the Pacific coast and the Andes, from the arid Atacama Desert in the north, through lush vineyards, lakes and glaciers in the centre, to the icy wilds of Patagonia in the south. The cultural and political centre is the capital of Santiago, with plenty of first-class restaurants, galleries and museums.

The immense high plateau of the Atacama Desert takes the title of the driest place on the planet, but this extreme environment forms a backdrop to magical sunsets and a landscape of dramatic salt flats and salt lakes where Andean flamingos feed. The pure air and vast night skies make this one of the world's premier centres for stargazing, used to test NASA equipment and a location for three major international observatories.

The Lake District has been called Chile's Yosemite and in summer it's a land of snow-capped mountains, clear lakes and rivers, drawing visitors to go kayaking, rafting, fishing for trout, hiking and basking in the bubbling thermal springs.

The Torres del Paine National Park is one of the most beautiful parks in the world with huge granite peaks circled by condors, and glaciers, lakes, and rivers that provide a habitat for wild pumas and guanacos.

As you travel between these astonishing landscapes, pause for a while to take in the views of the huge orchards, lush pastures and emerald vineyards of the fertile Central Valley. For a complete change of pace, thousands of miles away in the South Pacific is the remote and barren island of Rapa Nui (Easter Island), watched over by six hundred mysterious stone Moai figures.



WHAT'S ON

Chile's national day is the 18th September with celebrations of national traditions and cuisine taking place throughout the country. The coastal town and UNESCO world heritage site of Valparaiso puts on one of the best New Year's Eve celebrations in South America. For a unique Polynesian island experience, the Easter Island Tapati festival takes place in February every year, with much singing and dancing.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways operates a direct flight to Santiago from London Heathrow. The longest flight the airline operates at nearly 15 hours, flights are 4 times a week during high season from November to April.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Chile's unique geography spanning a huge range of climates means travel is possible at all times of the year. However, hotels and lodges in Patagonia generally close during the winter months, from around June to September, meaning that the summer months of November to April are generally the best time to visit.



SANTIAGO AND THE WINELANDS

The Chilean capital city of Santiago is cosmopolitan, lively and sophisticated. With a growing economy and rejuvenated arts scene, it's a thoroughly modern city but still retains an old world charm. Each neighbourhood has its own identity; museums, pedestrian malls and grand architecture make it a wonderful place to wander, while hillside parks are perfect for picnics. And sidewalk eateries, cafes and beer halls make the nightlife vibrant. Leave the city behind and you're in the fertile valleys of Chile's winelands, where old colonial haciendas and boutique vineyards create merlots and cabernet sauvignons. Sample vintages and the charm of rural Chilean life.



TORRES DEL PAINE

A Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and the eighth wonder of the world Torres del Paine National Park in the southern tiers of Chilean Patagonia is recognised as one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places on earth. Impressive sights include green fields, majestic granite massifs, glittering turquoise lakes, icebergs, rivers, ancient forests and pampas visited by guanacos and pumas. Get up close to the Gray Lake glacier in a catamaran that will take you directly to walls of ice and experience some of the world's most classic trekking routes. One of earth's last great unspoiled places.



THE ATACAMA

The world's driest desert is not just an arid wilderness but its fertile oases are teeming with a diversity of life and it makes headline news for the phenomenon of the 'flowering desert' when heavy rainfall creates a carpet of flowers. On the high Andean plateau are small picturesque villages where ancient traditions survive. The vast salt flats, geysers and blue lagoons of San Pedro de Atacama are like nowhere else on earth. Fresh air and lack of clouds make the stars shine as in no other place on earth and you can stargaze in one of the famous astronomical observatories. Soil samples taken from the Atacama are actually very similar to samples from Mars!



THE LAKE DISTRICT & ARAUCANIA

Tucked between the rugged Andes and Pacific Ocean, the hills, lakes and forests of the Chilean Lake District are reminiscent of their English namesake, with the addition of snowcapped volcanos. The land of Monkey puzzle forests, the high speed ski slopes, canyoning and climbing attract thrill seekers, while the warm waters of the natural hot springs entice. It's a haven for walkers and birdwatchers yet it's still largely undiscovered. Go to sleep gazing at the stars in a ruka, an age-old Mapuche building and sample a type of corn bread made by the Mapuche women. Visit museums and follow in the footsteps of the poet Pablo Neruda.



TIERRA ATACAMA, San Pedro de Atacama

This intimate hideaway is set on the site of a historic cattle corral, facing the impressive Licancabur Volcano on the edge of San Pedro de Atacama. Rooms are bright and spacious with private terraces and breathtaking views. Tierra Atacama is an all-inclusive 'adventure spa', offering a winning combination of exhilarating outdoor activities - walking and hiking, volcano climbing, horse rides and night excursions - followed by ultimate relaxation and tranquility in the Uma Spa. Architecture, interiors and gardens are the work of leading Chilean designers, with an emphasis on authenticity and luxury and the vibe is casual and comfortable with cosy corners warmed by fire pits.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour from Calama Airport / 32 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Excursions Included / Spa / Children Welcome



TIERRA PATAGONIA, Torres del Paine National Park

The award winning architecture of Tierra Patagonia was designed to complement the patterns and flow of nature of this privileged location, and it melts into the landscape, becoming a part of its surroundings. All the rooms and living areas feature magnificent views of Lake Sarmiento and the iconic Torres del Paine National Park. The "adventure – spa" concept includes daily excursions with walks, hikes, horseback rides, and adventures on four wheels, allowing for complete exploration of the National Park, the ranches and surrounding pampas. You'll ride with local gauchos (cowboys) on an expedition to "the uttermost ends of the earth" on horses specially trained for anyone to ride, then relax in the jets and cascades of the Uma Spa pool with inspiring views.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour from Puerto Natales Airport / 40 Rooms & Suites / Excursions Included / Spa / Children Welcome



EXPLORA RAPA NUI, Easter Island

Explora has pioneered a new way of travelling, based on exploration combined with luxury and sustainability, and the hotel at Rapa Nui is a luxurious base camp for explorers who are drawn to this most mysterious and isolated of islands. Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Easter Island was the cradle of a lost culture that continues to fascinate today, watched over by the huge carved stone Moai. The architecture of this award-winning hotel is sympathetic to the island's extraordinary landscape and history. Food is light and healthy, to aid exploration and there are 20 guided tours to choose from, suited to all abilities and ages, on either foot, bicycle, boat, or specially trained horses.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minutes from Mata Veri Airport (5 hour flight from Santiago) / 30 Rooms & Suites / Excursions Include / Spa / Children Welcome



CLOS APALTA RESIDENCE, Colchagua Valley

This Relais & Chateaux property, created by the Marnier Lapostolle family, is a designer winery and hotel, nestled in the Apalta Vineyards of Chile. The focus is on wine tasting, enhanced by a menu created by chefs who prepare dishes of fresh, organic vegetables and herbs from the hotel gardens to complement each wine. Meanwhile the modern architecture and terrace with infinity pool showcases spectacular views over the Colchagua Valley. Clos Apalta brings you closer to nature. When not sampling gastronomic delights, you can work up an appetite trekking, horse-riding or mountain biking in the forests and hills.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours 45 minutes from Santiago International Airport / 4 Casita Suites / 1 restaurant and bar / Children Welcome



HACIENDA HOTEL VIRA VIRA, Araucania

Central to your stay at Hacienda Hotel Vira Vira is the concept of 'The Elegance of Adventure', with a wealth of all inclusive activities on offer, making the most of the National Parks, Liucura River and majestic volcano Villarrica on your doorstep. Learn to ride a horse with a 'Huaso' (Chilean Cowboy), enjoy a leisurely sail on Lake Villarrica, try river rafting, kayaking, and skiing on the volcano. All rooms overlook the beautiful lagoon that's home to a variety of bird and animal life, while suites feature a cosy fireplace, outdoor hot tub and terrace overlooking the river or the volcano.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from Temuco Airport / 18 rooms / 1 restaurant and bar / Spa / Children Welcome



CUMBRES HOTEL PUERTO VARAS, Puerto Varas

The panoramas from Hotel Cumbres are just breathtaking. Lake Llanquihue is the second largest lake in Chile, its banks cloaked in indigenous evergreens, backed by soaring snow-capped volcanoes. Native woods and local shades and fabrics adorn the 90 guest rooms and suites, while the restaurant, Cumbres Del Lago, is regarded as one of the best in the region. Sip international cocktails in the relaxed ambience of the Araucaria Bar after a day enjoying the charm of Puerto Varas with its German-influenced architecture. Pretty lakeside towns such as Frutillar and the waterfalls at Petrohue are also close by.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Puerto Montt Airport / 90 rooms / 1 restaurant and 1 bar / Sauna / Indoor Swimming Pool / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome



THE SINGULAR SANTIAGO, LASTARRIA HOTEL, Santiago

The signature of a luxury Singular Hotel is to pay tribute to the history and legacy of their location, and The Singular Santiago offers you the chance to immerse yourself in this most artistic and cultured city. Its Neo Classical architecture and interiors pay homage to the attractively Bohemian neighbourhood of Lastarria, with its wine bars and galleries, where the city of Santiago was born. Parque Forestal, National Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Lucia hill, and the Municipal Theatre are all well worth a visit. There are gastronomic delights in store at the Rooftop Bar and Restaurant.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Santiago International Airport / 62 Rooms / 1 Restaurant and 2 Bars / Spa and Gym / Children Welcome

ARGENTINA

Argentina is the second largest Latin American country with a super sexy, edgy capital city; Buenos Aires, where history and modernity exist side-by-side in perfect harmony; with a touch of poetic melancholy. It's been dubbed the 'Paris of South America' because it's busy avenues, sophisticated restaurants and lively nightlife rivals any European city. This is the place to tango the night away. Argentina's steamy, sensual national dance has been described as 'making love in the vertical position' and there are countless salons and cafes where you can watch, or give it a go.

Los Glaciares National Park in the Argentinian Andes is a UNESCO World Heritage site, a spell-bindingly beautiful landscape of rugged granite peaks, majestic mountains and glacial lakes, fed by the Southern Patagonian ice field. The landscape is epitomised by the Perito Moreno Glacier, a gigantic, constantly moving block of ice, 60 metres high. It's located at the town of El Calafate, the gateway to Los Glaciares, named after the berry that's said to guarantee your return after one taste.

Mendoza, an oasis in the foothills of the Andes Mountain Range, is one of the loveliest Argentinian cities, a wine capital of the world, where fine, five-star steaks are enhanced by the best Malbec from the most renowned winemakers and the temperate climate has helped to inspire the slogan 'the land of good sunshine and good wine'.

To the north-west, the city of Salta is worth a visit for its colonial charm, neo-Classical buildings and lively traditional music scene. This is also a region of spectacularly unique scenery that changes at every turn, from multicoloured mountains, to burnt red desert valleys and blinding white salt flats, for those who enjoy self-drive there are some epic road trips to be had.

WHAT'S ON

Buenos Aires hosts the 'Tango Festival y Mundial', the largest celebration of the country's famous dance towards the end of August. Further celebration of Argentinian heritage can be found at the annual Gaucho festival which takes place in November in the province surrounding the capital. Wine lovers should head to Mendoza in March for the annual celebration of the grape harvest.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways operate a daily direct route to Buenos Aires which take around 14 hours. Other routes are available via European hubs and from regional airports in the UK.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Due to its location in the southern hemisphere, Argentina's seasons are the opposite of ours, meaning most people travel during the southern summer of November to April. This is especially true for Patagonia where hotels and lodges generally close during their winter. Northern Argentina can be visited all year round.





BUENOS AIRES

One of the world's most thrilling capitals, Buenos Aires pulses with passion. Home to the sensual tango you can catch live performances with orchestras and dancers in intimate bars and grand symphony halls. It's also a city with football at its heart and is famous for its frenetic nightlife. It's a cultural melting pot, reflected in its architecture, food and the arts. Dining is important in the recently designated Ibero-American capital of Gastronomic Culture, which also has almost 300 theatres, one of the world's best opera houses and a world-renowned urban nature reserve. Visit the historic Plaza de Mayo where huge crowds turned out to see Eva Perón speak and soak up the atmosphere in the cobbled streets and old cafes where poets used to gather.



PATAGONIA

El Chaltén, within Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina's Santa Cruz province, is a new village, founded in 1985, since when it's become the National Capital of Trekking. It's a gateway to trails surrounding the peaks of Cerro Torre and Mount Fitz Roy. Visitors are also attracted by the challenge of an intrepid expedition through part of the Patagonic Continental Ice Field. Named after the berry that, once eaten, guarantees your return to Patagonia, El Calafate is the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park and entices you with a massively popular and magnificent must-see - the shape-shifting Glaciar Perito Moreno. There's also an education centre - the Glaciarium.



MENDOZA

Since Mendoza is one of the greatest wine capitals of the world, visiting local wineries is sure to be top of your itinerary. There are more than 1,500 wineries across the three main wine regions - Lujan de Cuyo, Valle de Uco and Maipu and what better than sipping Malbec surrounded by sublime mountain scenery, before savouring equally delicious meals in world-class restaurants. But there's more to Mendoza than wine. It's one of the last frontiers, a land for exploration and discovery, with plenty for the adventurous, from white water rafting on the Mendoza River to horseback riding at the foothills of the Andes Mountains. There are also Tango shows and tranquil spas to enjoy, and of course the warm, sunny climate.



BARILOCHE

In Argentina's Río Negro province, the city of Bariloche is located within the Nahuel Huapi National Parks, surrounded by thousand-year-old forests, mountains covered in snow and crystal clear lakes. It's also been declared the Argentine Capital of Adventure Tourism and Argentine Capital of Chocolate! So what's not to love? There are shimmering snowy peaks to ski in winter, whole valleys covered in spring flowers and amazing autumnal colours. Activities for all ages range from trekking, sailing, romance, nightclubs, pub crawls and high end cuisine. For those looking for an adventure, this is also the starting point for some stunning road trips.



ALVEAR PALACE, Buenos Aires

The Alvear Palace Hotel is a landmark in the most elegant district of Buenos Aires. It opened its doors in 1932, welcoming the first European visitors to the city, and it has retained a Parisienne opulence, with rooms and suites that are the height of refinement, decorated in Imperial-style with Louis XVI furniture. Public areas shimmer with crystal chandeliers and glitter with the gold leaf that adorns the walls.

La Bourgogne restaurant serves the finest French cuisine in Buenos Aires and The L'Orangerie is a rarefied space flooded with natural light that has become a popular meeting place in Buenos Aires, while the exclusive Lobby Bar, clad in French wood panelling, has been a haunt of the celebrities of Buenos Aires' society since the 1930s. The new Art Deco style Champagne Bar is set to become just as fashionable. Visit the spa for a signature milk and rose petal immersion and when you step outside this glamorous hotel there's all the glamour of La Recoleta neighbourhood to explore. Its parks, wide avenues, and classical buildings are on the doorstep, along with restaurants, cafes, boutiques and museums.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Buenos Aires Aeroparque Airport and 45 minutes from Buenos Aires Ezeiza Airport / 210 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

EOLO, near El Calafate

EOLO is part of a 10,000 acre estancia (an Argentinian version of a ranch) close to The Andes Mountains, between the city of El Calafate and the fantastical Los Glaciares National Park. So it's the perfect place to experience the full wonder of Patagonia.

The hotel's architecture is decidedly modern, yet it's inspired by the simplicity of creole houses, with an emphasis on tranquility, on soft colours and smooth contours, allowing this dramatic country to take centre stage. Patagonia is the most southerly land inhabited by man, excluding the Antarctic, and Los Glaciares National Park contains 300 glaciers, one of which is 3 miles wide. You can go trekking to see these natural phenomenon in close proximity, and take advantage of the resort's other exclusive activities which include mountain biking, bird watching and horseback riding. Or you can reflect on the majesty of this vast country, the lake, steppe and cordillera, from the comfort of the hotel as you look forward to dining on Chef Juan Pablo Bonaveri gastronomic delights. These combine international techniques with regional products, enhanced, of course, with Argentinian wines.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour from El Calafate Airport / 17 Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Excursions included / Indoor Swimming Pool / Children Over 12 Welcome





ESTANCIA PEUMA HUE, Bariloche

This cosy, boutique eco lodge is designed to enchant. It's serenely located within the Nahuel Huapi National Park, the foremost National Park in Argentina, yet it's only forty five minutes away from the town of Bariloche.

Estancia Peuma Hue translates as 'the place of dreams' in the native Mapuche language and owner, Evelyn Hoter, found inspiration here, a peaceful, spiritual environment to enhance health and give meaning to life. She set out to provide a place of rejuvenation, with an organic garden and lush landscape of indigenous plants that's a sanctuary for native animals like the Andean condor. Share her dream as you explore the beautiful wilderness on horseback or hiking the mountain trails to forests, creeks and waterfalls. There are so many ways to experience the otherworldliness of this sublime retreat. Gather for live music and meditation at the non-denominational temple, enjoy balanced, healthy and delicious meals and watch your children build dens and play with kittens. Stay in the Poplar House, Radal House, Creek Cabin, Coihue Villa or Mountain Villa, a cabin hidden in the midst of a forest, close to a canyon with three waterfalls.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 45 minutes from San Carlos de Bariloche Airport / 8 rooms and 3 private villa cabins / 1 restaurant and bar / Excursions and activities on site / Hot Tub, Sauna and Massage Room / Children Welcome

CASA DE UCO, Mendoza

Life at this Vineyard and Wine Resort in the foothills of the Andes revolves around the culture of wine. The architecture of the spacious rooms and suites is inspired by the landscape of the 320 hectare estate. The new villas, with their private terraces and gardens, are sheltered inside the vineyard itself.

Follow the process from grape harvest to the creation of a premier wine brand and take a horseback ride through the vineyard or a horse drawn carriage through the ecological reserve. Aromatherapy and vinotherapy is on offer in the spa, with treatments using minerals extracted from deep in the earth and spring water enriched with antioxidants. A dip in the infinity pool, jacuzzi, solarium and peaceful lagoon will relax you still further. Dishes in the restaurant are prepared using seasonal produce from the bountiful gardens - everything from broccoli to fava beans and fragrant basil, mint, thyme and oregano. What better place to learn to cook Argentinian dishes - or go paragliding, or white water rafting which are all available to book locally!

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour 45 minutes from Mendoza Airport / 16 rooms and 3 private villas / 1 restaurant and bar as well as 1 outdoor Argentine Barbecue Area / Vineyard tours and winetasting / Spa / Children over 12 welcome (although most activities are for over 18s only)



BRAZIL

Brazil is a lively and colourful country that can be symbolised by the glamour and rhythm of the native dance, the Samba. This is carnival country; and home to the beautiful game. But it's also a land steeped in history, filled with adventure, abundant wildlife and opportunities for relaxation.

Most Brazilian escapades begin in bustling Rio de Janeiro, known as the cidade maravilhosa, or Marvellous City due to the local's belief that after God spent seven days creating the world, the eighth day was dedicated to creating Rio. Marvels here include sweeping white sand beaches, lush forests and the towering verdant mountains of Sugarloaf and Corcovado, topped with the inspiring statue of Christ the Redeemer.

The Pantanal is famed for being the largest area of wetlands on the planet, a precious habitat for an array of rare plants and wildlife. There are estimated to be 1000 bird species and 300 mammals. A Jeep Safari through this wide, open landscape will offer the chance for sightings of macaw, tapir, capybara, anacondas, herons, and caiman. The area is also famed as one of the few places in the world to see Jaguar in the wild. Activities include horse-riding, hiking, wetland canoe and boat trips. Another must see is the magnificent Iguazu Falls, meaning 'great water.' It's a world-famous attraction that's three times wider than Niagara and twice as high, a series of awesome cascades best viewed from a boat or on a walkway.

The former fishing village of Trancoso on the Bahian coast, is a charmingly pretty, chilled out town where shops don't open until 3pm every day because everyone spends the morning at the beach. No surprise therefore, that it was a hangout for hippies and craftsmen from all over who built brightly coloured bohemian houses and artisan stalls. It is now one of the trendiest coastal towns in Brazil, at its heart is the Quadrado, or village green, where chic restaurants line the edge, resting in the shadow of the all-white São João Batista church.

WHAT'S ON

The famous Carnival starts on the Friday before Ash Wednesday every year, generally in February. Although Rio de Janeiro carnival is the largest and most famous, carnival isn't limited to Rio with festivities taking place throughout the country with the parades in Salvador and Olinda in northern Brazil being great alternatives, especially for those people keen to be more involved rather than just watching.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways operate a daily direct route to Sao Paulo, as well as a daily direct flight to Rio during our Summer. Flight time to Sao Paulo is around 12 hours and to Rio around 12 ½ hours.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Brazil is a huge country meaning climate varies a lot from region to region, but in general you can visit Brazil all year round, with some considerations. As a general rule, weather is better during our winter, with the beach areas generally being a bit rainier and cooler in June and July. This is in contrast to the Pantanal, when June through to October is drier and is the best time for wildlife spotting.





RIO

Rio is a colourful carnival city, attracting travellers from all over the world. It's also home to football, samba and the famous landmark statue of Christ the Redeemer, to lush tropical rainforests, white beaches and gardens, to Sugarloaf Mountain and the cascading waterfalls of Tijuca Forest National Park. No wonder it's Brazil's top tourist destination and known as the 'Marvellous City', or Cidade Maravilhosa. It's a glitzy, jubilant metropolis that knows how to party all night long, with an array of bars, clubs, restaurants and live music. Take a tour of the Maracanã Stadium, a helicopter flight over Sugarloaf Mountain, or bask on the beach in a Brazilian bikini!



IGUAÇU FALLS

The thunderous spectacle of the Iguazu Falls has awed tourists and indigenous inhabitants for centuries and featured in many films. Its origins are in the Iguazu River which forms the boundary between Brazil and Argentina and the name comes from the local Guarani language and translates as 'big water'. The Iguazu Falls are taller than Niagara Falls and twice as wide, famously causing First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to claim 'poor Niagara' upon seeing them. Central to the falls is the chasm of the Devil's Throat, while special walkways and boat and helicopter trips allow visitors to get close to this stupendously beautiful and powerful natural wonder.



THE PANTANAL

The Pantanal is the world's largest freshwater wetland, ten times the size of the Everglades. Largely untouched, it's teeming with wildlife, from tapirs to anacondas and seven hundred species of birds, making it a mecca for birdwatchers and wildlife viewing. Far less famous than the Amazon to the north the Pantanal boasts all the same species you can find in the jungle but the sparser vegetation means wildlife is easier to spot and the region actually makes for a much better wildlife experience than the Amazon. Popular centres are Cuiaba in the north and Campo Grande in the south. Explore the region like the locals do, on horseback or by boats, all the time keeping an eye out for Caiman and Capybara. This is also the best area in the world to see Jaguar in the wild with dedicated lodges offering the chance to track and see this most elusive of creatures.



THE COAST

Brazilian lifestyle centres around the beach, so much so that all beaches are public land, and the country is home to some of the most famous beaches in the world such as Ipanema and Copacabana. There are thousands more to choose from though, and with a coastline stretching 8000 km from north of the equator to the far south most of them are deserted. The scenery transforms from tropical palm trees to lush Atlantic Rainforest, while the thousand kilometre coastline of Bahia state is blessed with sweeping white sand shores and beautiful reef pools perfect for snorkeling as well as the stunning and vibrant city of Salvador. Towns like Buzios and Trancoso offer a perfect chic getaway from busy urban life, while pretty colonial towns like Paraty and Olinda offer a different side to the Brazilian coast.



BELMOND COPACABANA PALACE, Rio de Janeiro

The Belmond Copacabana Palace, on the doorstep of fabled Copacabana Beach, enjoys the reputation as one of the best hotels in Brazil. Its Art Deco chic has attracted the glamorous and famous since it first opened its doors in the Roaring '20s. Marlene Dietrich and Orson Welles were both guests here, and it has continued to be the place to see and be seen.

The 239 rooms and suites are all unique - distinguished by period furniture, high ceilings, works of art, airy ambience and spectacular views of the pool, city, beach or ocean. The pool is one of the most eye-catching in Rio and there are two not-to-be-missed restaurants. The Hotel's Cipriani Restaurant specializes in North Italian dishes, while MEE is one of the few restaurants in Rio to be awarded a Michelin star. It was created by celebrity chef Ken Hom, and serves delectable pan-Asian cuisine.

This is the perfect place to experience the thrill of Rio, and beach assistants are waiting at Copacabana Beach to bring you fresh towels, chilled drinks and mouth-watering snacks!

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 15 Minutes from Rio Santos Dumont Domestic Airport or 40 minutes from Rio Galeao International Airport / 243 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & 2 Bars / Tennis Courts / Fitness Centre / Spa / Children Welcome

BELMOND HOTEL DAS CATARATAS, Iguaçu Falls

There is only one hotel actually located right within Brazil's beautiful Iguaçu National Park, and that's the Belmond Hotel das Cataratas, granting guests exclusive access to the spectacular waterfalls at dawn and dusk, when the park is closed to other visitors.

Brazil's most spectacular hotel is sheltered by temperate rainforest, with architecture and interiors that are reminiscent of a Portuguese-colonial residence. Cataratas Suites have balconies from which to take in the sublime views, while luxurious Superior Rooms are classically Portuguese, blending bright colour and dark wood and featuring traditional azulejo 'painted tiles'. Central to the hotel is a gorgeous swimming pool, and one for the children too. Enjoy a 'gaucho' style Brazilian barbecue at the Ipê Grill and dine on Brazilian fusion food at the Itaipu Restaurant, looking out through lush forest towards the majestic Falls. Spa treatments utilise ingredients from the Brazilian Rainforest in therapies designed to relax, revive and energise. So you'll be ready for a full moon tour to witness a lunar rainbow, see the Lower Falls by speedboat or enjoy a spectacular flyover by helicopter.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 15 minutes from Foz do Iguaçu International Airport / 193 Rooms & suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Tennis Courts/ Spa / Adventure Activities / Children Welcome





SAMUEL MELIM

CAIMAN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE, Southern Pantanal

Founded thirty years ago, Caiman Ecological Refuge, was the first ecotourism operation in the Southern Pantanal, and focuses on offering a chance to get up close and personal with the Pantanal's flora and fauna, while enjoying the most luxurious lodge in the region. The Refuge is located within a 53,000 hectare ranch and consists of two lodges in the heart of the incredibly biodiverse wetlands. Guided excursions focus on the wildlife but range from astronomy workshops to Jeep Safaris, the highlight however is a chance to spend time with the Jaguar Habituation Team, a research team following clues that might enable you to glimpse one of the world's most elusive creatures.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 4 hours from Campo Grande Airport / 11 Rooms & suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Pool / Wildlife Spotting Excursions / Children Welcome



PONTA DOS GANCHOS RESORT, Santa Catarina

The Emerald Coast is named after the gemlike colour of its waters and is characterized by sheltered coves with white sand beaches backed by Atlantic forest. It is this stunning landscape that surrounds the adult only Ponta dos Ganchos Resort, which presides over a private peninsula. The secluded nature of the resort is perfect for those looking to get away from it all, there are activities here too though, from Yoga to surfing. There are 25 pretty suites and villas, decorated in muted tones, some with their own private plunge pool. A stupendous ten course breakfast, included in the rates, will get your day off to an amazing start and for couples, dinner on the resort's small private island is a highlight to any trip.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Florianopolis Airport / 25 Villas & Bungalows / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Adventure Activities / Spa / Tennis Court / Adults Only



UXUA CASA HOTEL & SPA, Trancoso

Trancoso is a former fishing village on Brazil's Bahian coast, founded by Jesuits in 1586 and rediscovered in the 1970s by bohemian hippies. It has retained its laid-back vibe. Each UXUA Casa has its own comfy sofa reserved on the beach, a short walk away, through the timeless car-free, town square, or Quadrado, and you can sip cocktails served from a restored, thatched-roofed fisherman's bar. Many of UXUA's casas date back five centuries and have been respectfully restored with the help of local artisans, retaining their history and authenticity. The Spa echoes a hippy passion for wellness and nature and cuisine here is inspired Bahian fusion.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 45 minutes from Porto Seguro Airport / 10 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Adventure Activities / Children Welcome

PERU

Mention Peru and most people immediately think of the Inca Trail and the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu, high up in the Andes, one of the top landmarks of the world, the Inca Capital Cuzco and its Temple of the Sun, and the fertile plains of the Sacred Valley. Peru is dotted with mysterious monuments and the enigmatic ruins of lost civilisations. But the bustling city of Lima is worthy of a visit, as is the sublime Lake Titicaca, over 3800 metres above sea level, a sacred place in Incan mythology where it's said that the world was created, and is still home to the descendants of ancient Pre-Incan cultures.

Whilst memorable sights in Peru will surely include ancient ruins, the cloud and rain forests are equally spectacular, and evocative sounds will include the cries of the howler monkeys frolicking in the thick canopy of the rainforest. The Peruvian Amazon is the best-protected tract of the world's most biodiverse forest.

There's also plenty of opportunity for more modern adventures, such as white water rafting through the canyons and gorges of the Urubamba River and mountain biking past bustling markets through the stunning foothills of the Andes.

This is also one of the best gastronomic destinations on the planet, with delicious dishes best sampled in the restaurants of the cosmopolitan coastal capital of Lima. The national speciality is ceviche, a raw white fish marinated in lemon juice, onion and hot peppers while Peru's most famous drink is pisco, a grape brandy made in the Ica valley and used in pisco sour, a potent cocktail which also includes egg whites and lime juice.

WHAT'S ON

The modern and somewhat touristy interpretation of Inti Raymi, the Inca festivities celebrating their sun god, take place on the winter solstice. Cuzco is a great place to experience this festival which takes place every year during the southern Winter Solstice in June. For those looking for something a little more traditional and authentic, the religious festivities of Corpus Christi are also well worth a visit earlier in the month.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly 3 times a week during our summer from London Gatwick, direct to Lima. The flight time is around 12 and a half hours. Indirect options through a European Hub airport are also available from regional airports.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

You can visit Peru all year round, however between November and April it rains heavily in the highland areas of Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Lake Titicaca. May through to October are great times to visit as the weather is drier and brighter.





MACHU PICCHU

The famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, passing through high altitudes passes, The Gateway of the Sun and forests of orchids, is one of the most awe-inspiring treks in the Americas, and features on many a bucket list. It leads you to an architectural wonder of the world, the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu (meaning 'Old Mountain' in the language of the Incas), which has fired the imaginations of travellers for generations. Built in the 15th century it occupies a dreamlike location on a mountaintop in the middle of a cloud forest. Once a place of worship as well as an astronomic observatory and private residence, it comprises terraces and intricately carved temples and royal tombs with stone staircases and water channels running throughout. For those not keen on trekking a stunning railway journey also takes you to this modern wonder of the world.



CUZCO AND THE SACRED VALLEY

Meaning the 'Birthplace of the World' in the indigenous language, Cuzco is the former capital city of the Incas and an archeological wonder; and gateway to Machu Picchu. But this is far more than just a starting point, the architectural marvels in Cuzco are numerous, as Spanish colonial architecture sits literally atop Inca foundations, which is never more evident than at the Convent of Santo Domingo, built over the ruins of the Temple of the Sun. There's history in every street. Leaving Cuzco for Machu Picchu you pass through the snow-capped mountains, traditional markets, rivers, ruins, and indigenous villages of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, which is a centre for adventure tourism as well as a rural idyll.



LAKE TITICACA

This Andean lake is like nowhere else on earth. Stunningly beautiful and sacred to the Andean cultures, the lake is considered the birthplace of the Inca Empire. It's the highest navigable lake in the world, and recognised for its vast biological diversity and picturesque floating islands. Created with the buoyant and edible totora reeds that grow abundantly in the shallows of the lake, these reeds are interwoven with the lives of the Uros people. Many traditions of these indigenous people centre around the lake, and the local communities offer a range of opportunities for visitors to immerse themselves in the colourful local culture.



AREQUIPA & THE COLCA CANYON

Arequipa is a volcanic, picturesque city of 'sillar', its buildings built mostly of this striking white volcanic rock. Perhaps Peru's prettiest city, it is located in the country's southern highlands, watched over by snow-capped volcanic peaks, which guard over the city's ornate colonial buildings and shady pedestrian streets. Four hours from Arequipa lies the Colca Canyon on the Colca River, one of the deepest canyons in the world, twice as deep as the Grand Canyon and home to an indigenous population whose history stretches back hundreds of years far predating the Incas. Famously the canyon and valley is home to the Andean condor, called the Eternity Bird since it can live for seventy years. View these spectacular birds up close as they soar close to the canyon walls.



BELMOND MIRAFLORES PARK, Lima

This stylish spa hotel offers the best of all worlds. It's nestled within a beautiful garden beside the Pacific Ocean. Yet it's located in one of the most fashionable districts of Peru's capital city, close to museums displaying Inca gold and the art galleries, glamorous shops, archaeological sites and parks that make Lima such a diverse city.

There are stunning views of the city and ocean from the rooftop swimming pool and from the dizzy heights of the Observatory Restaurant. The hotel is home to Lima's top eateries and bars including trendy Tragaluz which offers, Asian, Mediterranean and Peruvian dishes and the Belo Bar, the hottest nightclub in Lima.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 45 minutes from Lima Jorge Chavez International Airport / 82 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

BELMOND MONASTERIO HOTEL, Cuzco

This landmark museum hotel in the heart of Cuzco dates back to 1592, occupying the site of an Inca palace, later converted to a monastery. This history is still very much in evidence in the baroque chapel, cloistered courtyard and 300-year-old cedar tree. The individually styled boutique rooms are rich in history too, with wooden furnishing and antique artwork. They can also be enriched with oxygen to combat the high altitude. Dine beneath the atmospheric arches of El Tupay restaurant, or in the cloistered Illary Restaurant and let the hotel team arrange a variety of activities for you, from massages to treks, cultural tours, and cookery classes.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minutes from Cuzco Airport / 122 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Children Welcome





BELMOND MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY LODGE, Machu Picchu

Belmond Sanctuary Lodge has an extremely privileged position, lying adjacent to the ancient Inca citadel at Machu Picchu, at the entrance to the UNESCO World Heritage Site. And as a guest here, you have the privilege of being able to enter and exit during the day as many times as you like. You can spend the day exploring or trekking, and then return to a cosy sanctuary of luxury. Rooms here are atmospheric and eco-friendly, with bold colours and wooden flourishes, and the views from the modern Tampu Restaurant are out of this world.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 4 hours from Cuzco and 2 hours from the Sacred Valley / 31 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Adventure Activities / Children Welcome

BELMOND HOTEL RIO SAGRADO, Sacred Valley of the Incas

Steeped in ancient history, The Sacred Valley was once the centre of the Inca Empire and is decorated with amazing Inca ruins. The Urubamba River winds gently through it, and on its banks sits the Belmond Rio Sagrado Hotel, inspired by an authentic Andean village. Airy and rarefied, riverfront Villas are built of natural stones and wood, with glass roofs sheltered by eucalyptus trees. Wander in the wild flower garden, visit the tranquil Spa Mayu Willka and dine by candlelight in El Huerto, one of the best restaurants in the valley, where you can sample the Inca delicacy of Pachamanca.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 Hour 30 minutes from Cuzco Airport / 21 Rooms, Suites & 2 Private Villas / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Adventure Activities / Children Welcome





THE BELMOND HIRAM BINGHAM AND BELMOND ANDEAN EXPLORER TRAINS

Take a once in a lifetime train journey through the romantic land of the Incas aboard the luxury Belmond Hiram Bingham or Belmond Andean Explorer, South America's first luxury sleeper train.

The Belmond Hiram Bingham is named after the buccaneering American archaeologist and explorer who first revealed Machu Picchu to the world, in 1911. Now you can find the Lost City for yourself, travelling aboard a train decorated with 1920s flair, with carriages gleaming with polished wood and brass. A four-course, Andean-inspired menu is served in the dining car, which sparkles with crystal and polished cutlery. Lounge on the cushioned seats in the observation car as you depart Poroy near the ancient city of Cusco and travel through the Sacred Valley.

The Belmond Andean Explorer offers passengers one of the highest train journeys on earth. It's also one of the most romantic, travelling from sunrise to sunset and through the night to the beauty of Lake Titicaca. Cabins have interiors inspired by Peru's hand-woven fabrics, there's a baby grand piano in the Lounge Car, and an open deck in the Observation car.

THE ESSENTIALS The Hiram Bingham runs every day of the week except the last Sunday of the month. Journey time to and from Poroy is around 3 and ½ hours

The Andean Explorer operates 4 different overnight programmes between Cuzco, Lake Titicaca and Arequipa. Departure days vary depending on the package, please contact us for details.

BELMOND LAS CASITAS, Colca Canyon

Belmond Las Casitas lies in the Colca Canyon and takes its inspiration from this most spectacular natural environment. The twenty authentic bungalows make the most luxuriously indulgent basecamps for canyon treks, riding off into the pristine forest on Peruvian Paso horses, visiting ancient pueblos and going in search of the majestic Andean condor armed with a picnic.

The lavish bungalow hideaways boast marble bathrooms, alfresco showers, private terraces and heated plunge pools and you can return from your trek to dine in one of the best restaurants in Peru with atmospheric interior and glamorous alfresco terrace perfect for sipping Pisco sours. The menu of mountain dishes and a full board package bring extra appeal.

When you're not exploring, you can relax beside the free-form swimming pool, constructed of Colca Valley stone so its totally in keeping with the Andean terraces that surround it. You can also feed Alpacas, escape within the pages of a book in the beautiful hotel library and treat yourself to a Peruvian ritual in the Samay Spa, complete with eucalyptus steam room and outdoor whisper pool.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are around 4 hours from Arequipa Airport / 20 rooms / 1 restaurant and bar / Spa / Children Welcome





TITILAKA HOTEL, Lake Titicaca

A mythical, mysterious place, Lake Titicaca is reputed to be the cradle of Inca civilisation, and in Andean belief, is also the birthplace of the sun. It's the largest and highest navigable lake in South America, located at an altitude of 3,800 meters on the border of Peru and Bolivia. All 18 rooms of this remote boutique Titilaka Hotel look onto this fabled lake. Here, still waters run deep, and are shiny as a mirror, a habitat for wildlife such as frogs and rare birds, as well as one of the oldest mountain communities. You can observe the lake dwellers' traditional way of life in local villages, and more than 90% of the hotel staff are locals. This is a business that puts an emphasis on conserving Andean traditions. Spend the day exploring Inca ruins or biking beneath vast skies, or on a popular excursion to the floating reed islands of the Uros and the Island of Taquile, home to craftsmen and weavers.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 Hour 30 minutes from Juliaca Airport / 18 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Adventure Activities and Excursions / Children Welcome



DELFIN AMAZON CRUISES

DELFIN AMAZON CRUISES, Iquitos, Peruvian Amazon

Take a voyage of discovery, deep into the vast flooded forest of the Peruvian Amazon. The recently refurbished Delfin III is the largest of the three Delfin boats, with 22 cabins and 3 and 4 night itineraries. The Delfin II has 14 suites, four with impressive 180° panoramic windows and some which can be interconnected for families and there's also an onboard spa. The Delfin I has also recently been refurbished and is a classic river vessel, with just 4 exclusively spacious suites and floor to ceiling windows that makes the natural beauty part of the decor. Swim with pink river dolphins under the supervision of expert guides and return on board to dine by candlelight twinkling on fine crystal.

THE ESSENTIALS

Delfin I: 8 passengers in 4 suites / 3 & 4 night itineraries

Delfin II: 28 passengers in 14 suites / 3 & 4 night itineraries

Delfin III: 43 passengers in 23 Suites (inc 1 single cabin) / 3 & 4 night itineraries



AQUA EXPEDITIONS

ARIA AMAZON CRUISE, Iquitos, Peruvian Amazon

Travel deep into the Amazon's rainforest on an exclusive ship designed by an acclaimed Peruvian architect. King sized beds with 100% Peruvian cotton sheets, polished floors, soft lighting, neutral shades and natural fibres create a relaxing ambience, enhanced by the amazing panoramic windows. Dine on cuisine prepared by a world-renowned chef and enjoy the social life on the Observation Deck as you glide up the river, lounging on cream sofas and watching monkeys playing in the tree canopy. And there's nothing better after a river shore excursion, than to slip into the soothing waters of the outdoor juzzi.

THE ESSENTIALS 32 passengers in 16 suites / 3, 4 and 7 night itineraries

ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS

Ecuador sits right on the equator, hence its name. It's one of the smallest countries in South America, but it also boasts startling contrast in scenery; with mountains, lakes, volcanoes, thermal springs and rainforests coloured with orchids, hummingbirds and butterflies. In many ways it's a microcosm of South America. The capital city Quito is rimmed by snow-capped mountains, yet has a lovely Spring-like climate and attractive colonial architecture and the colourful weavers' town of Otavalo is also worth a visit, since it produces rich artisan textiles made using centuries-old techniques.

A three hour flight to the west is the fabled Galapagos archipelago, home to many species found nowhere else on earth. About 80% of the land birds and a staggering 97% of the reptiles and land mammals, and more than 30% of the plants are endemic. The most famous species include the giant Galapagos tortoises, marine iguana, flightless cormorant, and the Galapagos penguin. History was made when Charles Darwin and H. M. S. Beagle arrived at the Galapagos on September 15, 1835. Darwin collected geological and biological specimens on the islands which led to the publication of his book, On the Origin of Species which changed our understanding of the world.

Having had so little contact with humans, many animals here are surprisingly tame and you can watch sea lion pups and penguins playing in the shallow waters. The islands include Darwin Island, with great options for snorkeling. The first post office was established on Floreana Island, in 1793 by whalers and the first Galapagos resident, an Irishman named Patrick Watkins, lived here from 1807-1809. You may not want to take up residence too, but a visit offers a life-changing experience.

WHAT'S ON

Easter celebrations are an important holiday in Ecuador, with processions in various cities and towns. While there are no real festivities or celebrations in the Galapagos, each month offers a different wildlife highlight, from the arrival of seals to the birth of sea lion pups.

HOW TO GET THERE

There are no direct flights from the UK to Ecuador, however British Airways partners Iberia operate daily flights from London to Quito via Madrid. Alternative flights from regional airports via European hubs are also available.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

The Galapagos are a year round destination, with wildlife active at all times of the year, do bear in mind however that certain types of wildlife are easier to spot at certain times of year. If you're cruising, seas are generally choppier and rougher in August and September. For mainland Ecuador the climate and times to visit are similar to Peru although you should be prepared for four seasons within a day whenever you travel.





SILVERSEA CRUISES SILVER GALAPAGOS CRUISE

The remote Galapagos Islands are famed for being one of the world's foremost destinations for wildlife-viewing and you can visit these historically significant islands which inspired Charles Darwin, aboard a luxury cruise ship, Silver Galapagos.

The Galápagos archipelago, off the western coast of South America, is inaccessible to most, and it's this supreme isolation that has led to the development of species that are found nowhere else on earth, and which makes it an extraordinary privilege to be able to visit it.

Travel there in a Silver Suite, complete with marble bathroom and private balcony. Experienced guides, certified by the National Park of the Galápagos, will take you on a range of complimentary explorations; Zodiac tours, snorkeling, kayaking and nature hikes again all regulated and certified by the National Park of the Galápagos. Then take a refreshing dip in the Jacuzzi before meeting other travellers for cocktails, tapas and conversation at The Piano Bar or The Grill, an outdoor bar that transforms by evening into an interactive restaurant where you can grill your own fresh seafood beneath the stars.

THE ESSENTIALS Max 100 Passengers / Full Board / 2 Restaurants and Bar / Massage Room and Jacuzzi / Fitness Centre

ROYAL GALAPAGOS CRUISES, NATURAL PARADISE CRUISE

Explore Ecuador and the Galapagos in ultimate, intimate style, comfort and safety on the aptly named Natural Paradise. This luxury yacht will transport you and a select few of just fifteen other passengers on a choice of four, five or eight day excursions.

Natural Paradise has a crew of ten, dedicated to catering to your ever wish and whim. Snorkelling gear, wetsuits and underwater cameras are all provided to make sure you make the most of the unique underwater world. And after an adventurous day, you can sip cocktails in the bar on the sundeck, complete with chaise lounges and jacuzzi. Dine al fresco before you retire to your double cabin with a private balcony that's perfect for watching the moonlight glitter on the water. Depending on which itinerary you choose, you'll visit an array of enchanting islands where you'll see rare species including blue-footed boobies, albatross, and magnificent frigatebirds.

THE ESSENTIALS Max 16 Passengers / Full Board / 1 Restaurant and Bar / Jacuzzi



COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a rare country. It has no army and it actively protects its wildlife and natural resources, so it's no wonder it's consistently ranked one of the happiest countries in the world. There's much to make visitors and travellers happy too; gorgeous beaches and magical cloud forests, an array of exciting activities and wonderful, rich coffee.

The unique Cloud Forests are so called because they're so high up they're often shrouded in mist. The most famous one in the world is probably Costa Rica's Monteverde, but there are numerous others, and these mountaintop reserves are home to hundreds of exotic species of bird and mammals, including pumas and jaguars.

Costa Rica means 'rich coast' in Spanish and this tiny country shelters an astonishing 5% of the existing biodiversity in the entire world. Toucans fill the trees and rare Scarlet Macaws brighten the skies along with iridescent butterflies. Blue and humpback whales and bottlenose dolphins head to the calm waters of Costa Rica's Pacific coast to feed and various species of sea turtles also nest here.

This is a wonderful destination for families too, with Jungle Lodges to stay in, and thrilling adventures to enjoy together, like zip-lining or hiking along hanging bridges, which offers an exciting way to explore the country's natural wonders from a different perspective. And for more traditional family fun, there are Costa Rica's many glorious beaches, surrounded by rainforests and fringed with coral reefs. There are opportunities to surf, dive, windsurf, and play beach volleyball. The water is usually warm and thanks to the long, narrow shape of this country, it's easy to switch from one coast to the other, to experience the different shades of sand which vary from white to yellow through to silver and black due to the constant crashing of seashells on the reefs.

WHAT'S ON

Turtle hatching occurs in Tortuguero between July and October, at this time you can see hundreds of baby Green Turtles making a desperate dash for the ocean. At different times of the year different types of whale and dolphin can be spotted off the coast.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly direct to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital up to three times a week from London Gatwick, flight time is around 11 ½ hours. Indirect options via Europe or the US are also available, including from regional airports within the UK.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Although a relatively small country, Costa Rica's climate varies from its Pacific Coast to its Caribbean Coast which means there is quite a wide season of travel. For the Pacific Coast, December to April is the driest and brightest, while on the Caribbean side March to August is the best time. Avoid travel in September and October when rainfall is at its heaviest. November sees slightly less rainfall, and can be a good option as national parks can be a little quieter than the peak seasons.





CENTRAL VALLEY

Costa Rica's lush Central Valley has much to offer; all set in stunning natural scenery. The soil is rich in minerals thanks to two active volcanoes which are well worth a visit. The bubbling crater of the Poas Volcano can be viewed from an observatory in the national park and from the summit of the Irazu Volcano you can see the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. This is also coffee country with numerous plantations throughout the valley many of which also double as relaxing hotels perfect for a few nights stay. For those of a more adventurous disposition this valley hides some superb white-water rafting as well as challenging hikes.



MONTEVERDE

Floating above Costa Rica's continental divide, the cloud forest of Monteverde is like another world - a world of misty coffee plantations, chattering monkeys, friendly people and charming towns like Santa Elena, with its cosy restaurants and artisan shops. At 4,662 ft (1,440 m) above sea level, this is a region rich in biodiversity. Droplets of moisture from the fog catches on trees and drips to the organisms below, helping to support ecosystems of mammals, birds, insects and plants including rare orchids, jaguars, ocelots, pumas, margays, and jaguarundis. And after trekking in the dreamy misty, mountainous terrain of the Cloud Forest Reserve you can look forward to dining at lovely restaurants.



ARENAL

The iconic Arenal Volcano is impossible to miss when you're travelling in the northern lowlands of Costa Rica. It has a perfectly symmetrical shape, and until a few years ago was Costa Rica's most active volcano, erupting spectacularly in 1968. While there are no explosions of lava and ash at present, there's still plenty to see and do. Hike through the Arenal Volcano National Park, explore the richly diverse rainforest and experience the adrenaline rush of canopy, zip lining and rappelling tours. There are streams to fish, hot spring to soak in and rivers to raft.



THE COAST

Costa Rica has not one but two beautiful and distinctive coastlines. On the east are Caribbean coral reefs teeming with tropical fish and Tortuguero National Park. This is one of the most important nesting site's for the endangered green turtle and from May to November you can witness the awesome sight of them crawling up the beach to lay their eggs. Pacific waves on the west coast are a surfers paradise, with an array of chilled out beach towns including Santa Teresa and Montezuma, home to world class surf schools. At Manuel Antonio National Park the lush rainforest reaches right down to the beaches, while the Osa Peninsula is the place to go to see Humpback whales.



FINCA ROSA BLANCA, San Jose

Stay on an organic carbon neutral coffee plantation where the focus is also on art, luxury, food, culture, adventure and nature. Seven thousand native trees have been planted here over the past 25 years. The eye-catching architecture at Finca Rosa Blanca is adorned with skylights, murals and artwork, indoor gardens, fountains and waterfalls and the surrounding landscape of the Coffee Highlands is equally sublime, with volcanoes, cloud forests and rivers. Dine on New World fusion cuisine beside a flickering fire or on the open-air terrace overlooking the Central Valley. Ingredients are fresh from the Restaurant's own organic greenhouse. Embark on an educational and inspirational coffee tour and of course a coffee tasting.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes San Jose International Airport / 14 Rooms / 1 restaurant and 1 bar / Swimming Pool / Spa / Children Welcome



NAYARA RESORT SPA & GARDENS, Arenal

This is the perfect place for travellers looking for a combination of romance and exhilaration. The luxury boutique hotel occupies a hillside position in the lush rainforest with breathtaking views of the active Arenal Volcano. You're surrounded by healing hot springs to bathe in and by hanging bridges, rivers and caves. There are four restaurants to choose from, all benefitting from exquisite locations. Head to the new Spa at Nayara for a rebalancing massage using ingredients ranging from chocolate to hot stones. Accommodation bungalows nestle in the tropical gardens, and the hotel is connected, via a bridge above a ravine, to the Nayara Springs, a VIP adults-only boutique hotel.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 ½ hours from either San Jose or Liberia International Airports / 50 Rooms & Suites / 2 restaurants and 1 bar / Spa / Children Welcome at Arenal Nayara but the attached Nayara Springs resort is adult only



FOUR SEASONS RESORT COSTA RICA AT PENINSULA PAPAGAYO

This is one of the best 5 Star rated resort in Central and South America, and it tantalisingly combines the excitement of eco-adventure with the allure of gourmet cuisine and ultra-luxury. The 181 suites, villas and estate homes immerse you in Costa Rican beauty and exoticism, with plush rattan and bamboo furnishings, colourful local artwork and indigenous wood and stone finishes. Pamper yourself with a holistic nature-inspired treatment at the Spa and dine in elegance at Sol y Sombra, where the concept of the menu is 'land-to-sea' with a focus on sustainable items such as fresh chicken and seafood cooked. Caracol is the Resort's premier American Steakhouse and it overlooks the spectacular Arnold Palmer championship golf course

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from Liberia International Airport / 155 Rooms & Suites / Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Golf / Water sports / Children Welcome with club / All-inclusive



EL SILENCIO LODGE, Bajos del Toro

Billed as an 'inspired natural immersion retreat that celebrates Costa Rica's charming cloud forest highlands,' this is an eco-lodge and more. It's a 500 acre private cloud forest reserve, between two Volcano National Parks, and it's designed for those who want a luxuriously intense encounter with nature, to live amidst mist-shrouded tropical forests and thundering waterfalls, surrounded by vibrant local culture. Upscale Suites are tiered to offer awe-inspiring mountain views; from the floor-to-ceiling glass doors, the heated outdoor jet pools and the traditional handcrafted rocking chairs on their private viewing decks. The Yoga Deck echoes the whole ethos of the resort, as does the culinary philosophy at Las Ventanas Restaurant, which is all about wellness dining with a close connection to nature.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 ½ hours from San Jose International Airport / 15 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Children over 8 welcome



PUNTA ISLITA, Guanacaste

This is an off-the-beaten track beach escape with a difference. Hotel Punta Islita's signature Authentic Costa Rica program includes complimentary eco-adventures such as horseback riding and monkey quest as well as cultural projects such as art sessions and cooking lessons which enable you to fully connect with this beautiful country. The hotel has fostered strong ties with its neighboring communities through outreach initiatives such as the creation of the Islita Art Museum and development of New Islita School it all makes your stay more meaningful and memorable. You can also enjoy more usual upscale resort facilities; a lovely infinity-edge pool, close to the viewing deck of Pacifico Restaurant and Harry's Bar, surely one of the best pool bars in the world.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 3 hours from Liberia Airport, or a 35 minute flight from San Jose / 30 Rooms, Suites and Villas / 2 restaurants and 2 bars / Activities included on property / Swimming Pool / Beach club including swimming pool and restaurant / Spa / Children Welcome



LAGARTA LODGE, Nicoya Peninsula

Benefitting from a superb location on the beautiful surfers paradise of the Nicoya Peninsula, Lagarta Lodge offers a different experience and location to many of the other lodges in Costa Rica. Nature and wildlife are at the heart of the lodge's ethos and the surrounding private nature reserve provides the perfect backdrop to this with magnificent Mangroves to explore, be it on horseback or in a kayak. After time spent exploring the Pacific Coast, retiring to the tranquillity of the hotel is no problem, boasting panoramic views of the ocean from nearly all sides, while the infinity pool is perfect for cooling off after the day's excursions. Finish the day with a mouth-watering meal in the Chiribocca restaurant, where organic local produce is turned into delicious international cuisine, before retiring to your spacious suite.

THE ESSENTIALS The nearby Nosara Regional Airport is a 35 minute flight from San Jose / 26 Rooms / 1 restaurants and bar / Spa / Swimming Pool / Nature Reserve / Children Welcome

BELIZE

Bordered by Mexico, Guatemala and the Caribbean Sea, Belize is a gloriously diverse country, in terms of its people and its ecosystems. It's an English speaking nation, once known as British Honduras, but is a melting pot of cultures, including East Indian, Mestizo, Maya, Mennonites and Creole. It was once the capital of the Classic Mayan civilisation and you can tour ancient sites with a descendant from modern day Mayan families as your guide, who will be happy to share stories passed down through the generations.

The coastal plain is distinguished by mangrove swamps which give way to the hills, low mountains, forests and jungles of the interior, as well as the largest cave system in Central America. The wildlife reserves are teeming with exotic flora and fauna and the weather is wonderful, the temperature comfortably warm but seldom humid.

And there's so much to see and do. Jacques Cousteau called the fabled Blue Hole one of the top 10 diving sites in the world. A four hundred foot deep, funnel-shaped sinkhole of crystal clear water, it offers a unique diving experience complete with views of stalactites and sharks. More amazing diving opportunities are to be had around the Belize Barrier Reef, the largest reef system in the Northern Hemisphere, comprising four hundred cayes (islands of coral sand) and three atolls. Ambergris Caye is the largest island in Belize, a gateway to adventures in this beautiful western Caribbean nation. Its only inhabitants live in San Pedro Town, the dive and water sports capital of Central America. But it's also a perfect place to lounge beneath swaying palm trees and beachfront cabanas.

One of the best kept secrets of Belize - the Macal River in the Cayo District. This beautiful winding waterway was one of the ancient Maya's superhighways, linking urban and ceremonial centres and connecting the interior with coastal trade routes.

WHAT'S ON

Well worth a visit is the annual Cacao or Chocolate Festival in late May. Considered one of the best spots in the world for the production of Cacao, the base product of Chocolate, this festival in the southern Toledo district celebrates Belizean production and all the associated traditions. A must visit for Chocoholics!

HOW TO GET THERE

There are no direct flights to Belize from the UK so you will require a connection. British Airways and partner American Airlines offer various routes through the US. Often Belize is combined with Guatemala so flights into Guatemala with Iberia via Madrid are another option. Finally it is possible to fly into Cancun, Mexico direct with British Airways and then onward either by road or light aircraft into Belize.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Travel to Belize is best between January and May during the dry season, when you can expect predominantly warm, sunny days, although areas such as Placencia can expect a little rain all year round. The wet season runs from June to December, although travel is still possible up until August; as the season progresses rain gets heavier and there is a small chance of hurricanes.



THE LODGE AT CHAA CREEK, Cayo District

Birthplace of 'Wildly Civilised' expeditions, the eco lodge of Chaa Creek, located on a 400-acre private nature reserve in Belize, has been a groundbreaking adventure travel destination for nearly forty years. People come here looking for adventure and discovery, romance and relaxation and to reconnect with nature. Guests benefit from an authentic jungle experience on the banks of the Macal River, gaining insight into the ancient cities, temples and ceremonial caves of the ancient Mayan civilisation. Five star facilities include the Mariposa Restaurant, infinity pool, Hilltop Spa and activities including horseback riding and canoeing. The IX Chel Villas promise a 180° experience, taking luxury to a new level with breathtaking rainforest views through floor to ceiling glass walls.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from Belize International Airport / 23 Rooms plus private villas and suites / 1 Restaurant and bar / Spa / Farm and Nature Reserve / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome



TURTLE INN, Placencia

This beachside haven was created by Francis and Eleanor Coppola in 2001. Accommodation comprises 25 idyllic thatched cottages; wander from your private deck to the white sand beach lapped by the Caribbean. Enjoy a dip in one of the two infinity pools. Explore the coral caves and visit the PADI dive shop for tips and help diving the Belize Barrier Reef UNESCO World Heritage site. Dine at a range of delicious restaurants including the charming Auntie Luba for laid back traditional fare as well as visiting the largest wine cellar in Central America. The Francis' Family Pavilion and Starfish Cottage are ideal for families, while for a truly incredible experience enjoy your own private island 8 miles offshore at the hotel's Coral Caye.

THE ESSENTIALS Nearby Placencia is a 45 minute flight from Belize Airport / 25 rooms and Suites plus Private Island Retreat/ 2 restaurants and 3 bars / Spa / Two Swimming Pools / Children Welcome



VICTORIA HOUSE RESORT & SPA, Ambergris Caye

Victoria House is a beach retreat on Ambergris Caye, the largest of Belize's cays. On the edge of the Belize Barrier Reef, it's ideally located for exploring Mayan ruins and diving the Great Blue Hole. A colonial style building houses staterooms above the world class Palmilla Restaurant, where you can savour dishes such as cashew crusted grouper and grilled lobster. Rainforest, Plantation and Tower Suites feature verandas and four-poster kingsized beds in bamboo or mahogany while Infinity Suites come complete with gourmet kitchens. 4 private villas offer yet more space, 2 featuring their own private pools. The new Victoria House Spa brings added luxury.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minute light aircraft flight or 2 hour water taxi from Belize International Airport / 42 Rooms and 4 private villas / 1 Restaurant and 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / 2 Swimming Pools / Private Beach / Children Welcome

GUATEMALA

Guatemala is a magical and mystical land, steeped in a history which dates back four thousand years to the ancient Mayan civilization. It's a legacy that's still very much alive today in the traditions and culture of this country and it's people.

Guatemala is known for its 'eternal spring' and is blessed with fair weather throughout the year. The colourful craft markets and regional costumes bring added colour. Natural beauty abounds, with volcanoes, lakes, rivers and mountains framing archaeological wonders of the Mayan culture and providing havens for wildlife.

Among the must-see destinations is La Antigua, a charmingly romantic city, with cobblestoned streets and a wealth of buildings that reflect a Spanish colonial heritage. It nestles in the valley of Panchoy, watched over by a trio of volcanoes, mountains and coffee plantations. La Antigua was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773 but its principal monuments are preserved as picturesque ruins and the city was rebuilt on an attractive grid pattern inspired by the Italian Renaissance. The Palace of the Captains General, Cathedral, Las Capuchinas and Santa Clara are among the magnificent historic buildings you'll want to visit. The baroque La Merced church plays an integral part in the city's famous Semana Santa, a holy week of parades and rituals.

El Peten is a vast and sparsely populated jungle region where you'll encounter the mysteries of the Maya. Tour the towering temples of Tikal and explore the wildlife haven of Reserva De Biosfera Maya (Maya Biosphere Reserve). And no trip to Guatemala is complete without a visit to Atitlán Lake, 1,560 meters above sea level and reaching a depth of over 300 meters. It's tranquil waters, laid back vibe and shoreline dotted with small towns and villages have enchanted everyone from the ancient Mayans to celebrated writer Aldous Huxley who considered it 'the most beautiful lake in the world'.

WHAT'S ON

If you pick one event to see in Guatemala, make it the week long Easter Celebrations, with the festivities in Antigua considered the largest in the world. The air is heavy with the aroma of incense and flower petals, as huge floats, requiring 50 – 100 people to carry them and depicting the life and death of Christ are paraded through the streets. Interestingly there is still a lot of Mayan tradition and symbology in the fusion of indigenous and Catholic celebration.

HOW TO GET THERE

There are no direct flights to Guatemala from the UK so you will require a connection. British Airways partners Iberia fly from London via Madrid, while you can also use British Airways and American Airlines to connect through the US. Other routes are available via Mexico City.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Guatemala is an all year round destination. Dry season runs from November to April, but even the wet season rainfall is usually no more than a couple of hours a day in the main tourist areas. Guatemala is often combined with Belize and if you are combining the two we normally advise against travel in September and October as weather in Belize can be a little more problematic.





CASA PALOPÓ, Lake Atitlán

This is an intimate and exclusive little gem of a hotel, with just seven exquisite rooms and a 2 -room private villa. It's located near the lovely lakeside village of Santa Catarina Palopó, on the shores of Lake Atitlán, famed for its cobalt-blue waters ringed with dramatic volcanic peaks and hot springs. Highlights include stunning decoration in every room and suite, spacious communal areas both inside and outside so that you can always find a quiet corner. There's a first class restaurant serving international and local cuisine, a beautiful infinity pool looking out to the lake, and a private heli-pad. Santa Catarina is worth exploring for its artisan shops and onion fields.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 3 hours minutes from Guatemala City Airport / 7 rooms / 1 restaurant and bar / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome



POSADA DEL ANGEL, Antigua

Posada del Angel is a beautiful boutique hotel hidden away on a quiet, cobblestoned street near the main plaza in La Antigua Guatemala, a beautiful Spanish colonial town and Unesco World Heritage city. There are just seven guest rooms, featuring carved wood, hand hammered copper, flowers and candles. At the heart of this intimate little gem is a piano, a small lap pool, secret garden and roof terrace with views over Volcán Agua. A local alchemist has created a special scent for the hotel, with frankincense, orange, myrrh, clove and cinnamon and tableware has been exclusively designed, based on engravings from the ruins of Capuchina's monastery. Begin the day with tropical fruits and eggs seasoned with the Chiltepe, a local chilli sauce, refried beans and home made tortillas, three elements that define Guatemalan cuisine, then head to the colourful local markets.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hours from Guatemala City Airport / 7 Rooms / Breakfast Room / Plunge Pool / Children Welcome



LAS LAGUNAS BOUTIQUE HOTEL, El Peten / Tikal

The boutique hotel of Las Lagunas is nestled within a 200 acre private reserve that's modelled on the parks in Africa, where wildlife and native species, including ocelots, margay, jaguar, deers and wild pigs breed and roam free in a protected environment. Visitors from all over the world can learn about the natural diversity of Guatemala and the Mayan heartland of Peten including the stunning ruins at Tikal and get closer to nature through eco tours, trekking, birdwatching and kayaking. Accommodation includes plush Master Suites with cascade showers and jacuzzi decks overlooking the jungle and lagoon where you can enjoy a relaxing massage. You'll dine on local gourmet dishes at sophisticated, atmospheric Shultun restaurant.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minutes from Mundo Maya International Airport / 15 Rooms and Suites / 1 Restaurant and Bar / Massages / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

UNITES STATES OF AMERICA

The USA surely has more must see destinations than any other country on the planet. There's the epicentre of culture and shopping that is New York City and the spectacular colours of New England nearby. The fabled beaches of Hawaiï and Florida contrast with the verdant pastoral idyll of the wineries of the Napa Valley, which in turn is a world apart from the neon glitz of Las Vegas. Visit iconic landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the geysers, cascading waterfalls and other awe-inspiring natural wonders of the national parks, or go on a musical odyssey in the Deep South, taking in recording studios and famous concert venues. Since America is the land of the free and home of the brave, there's plenty to keep wanderers and explorers happy; from road trips to adrenaline-fuelled adventures on working cattle ranches and in the national parks.



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

SAN FRANCISCO

• LAS VEGAS

NASHVILLE •

• NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES •

• ORLANDO

MIAMI •



EAST COAST

New York. New York. It's a capital of the arts, dining and shopping and one of the world's most captivating cities. Everything about it is iconic. The Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens and Manhattan. Skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building and the green heart of Central Park. There's Broadway; and the bright neon lights of Times Square. And remember that it's the city that never sleeps.

When New Yorkers do escape for a relaxing break, they often head to the tranquil beauty of New England. This is the birthplace of America, one of the earliest English settlements in the 'New World' following the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers in the eighteenth century. It's therefore one of the most historic and culturally rich regions of the USA, made up of six diverse states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. New England's fall foliage is legendary, when leaves turn from green to gold and scarlet in a magnificent show. But the white sand beaches, rocky coastline and lighthouses, wide lakes, pastoral farmland, forests, dramatic mountain ranges and dockside restaurants serving lobster, and blueberry pie are charming all year round. Vermont is great for skiing and Nantucket, the tiny island off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is a summer destination of sand dunes and cedar-shingled buildings. Explore wharves and cobblestoned streets, steeped churches and quaint inns, seaside cottages and historic harbours. There are upscale restaurants as well as chowder shacks and you can swim, surf or go bluefish and bonito fishing.

WHAT'S ON

February brings the buzz of Fashion Week in New York. Conversely indulge in an array of culinary experiences at 'Restaurant Week' in June. Autumn is the most popular time to visit New England, famed for the stunning autumnal colours. Wrap up warm and celebrate the festive season in December, either with the snows of New England or shopping in New York; and stick around a while longer and watch the New Year come in at the famous Times Square.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways offer direct flights to a number of East Coast Hubs. Up to 15 a day to New York (JFK and Newark), up to 4 a day to Boston, up to 3 a day to Philadelphia, and up to 3 a day to Washington. Flight time to New York is around 8 hours, to Boston 7 ½ hours, to Washington 8 hours and to Philadelphia 8 hours.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Spring to May and September to November are the best times of the year: Summers can be humid and hot while winters can be cold with frequent snowfall. Autumn is popular in New England.



GANSEVOORT MEATPACKING, Manhattan

Located in Manhattan's vibrant and historic Meatpacking district, this luxury full service hotel boasts breath taking 360-degree panoramas of New York City and sunsets over the Hudson River in a fusion of downtown drama and uptown opulence. Luxurious amenities of this hotel include a 45-foot heated outdoor rooftop pool with underwater lights, Zerzura Rooftop Bar and Lounge complete with a sprawling indoor 'loft' outfitted with flat-screen TVs and a state of the art DJ booth for a truly cosmopolitan experience.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 50 minutes from John F. Kennedy Airport / 186 Rooms & Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £1420 per person including flight



THE MARK, Upper East Manhattan

The Mark Hotel on the fabled Upper East Side at the corner of 77th Street and Madison Avenue has been transformed by legendary designer Jacques Grange, blending old-world comfort with avant-garde design, chic French style and cool 21st Century technology. It is at the epicentre of Manhattan's premiere galleries, museums, shops and restaurants and at just a stone's throw away from Central Park, this boutique hotel provides the perfect base for exploring the sites of the city.

THE ESSENTIALS Private transfers are 35 minutes from John F. Kennedy Airport / 100 Rooms & 50 Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £1795 per person including flights



MANDARIN ORIENTAL, Central Park

At the very top of the Time Warner Centre, this stylish city retreat enjoys a prime position in the throbbing heart of one of the world's iconic cities. It's floor-to-ceiling windows look out over the famous skyline of Manhattan, the Hudson River or Central Park, with Fifth Avenue and Broadway within easy walking distance. Inside there's as much to delight, with a renowned spa and acclaimed restaurant specialising in North American dream cuisine.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 45 minutes from John F. Kennedy Airport / 244 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £2290 per person including flights



THE CARLYLE, A ROSEWOOD HOTEL, Upper East Manhattan

The Carlyle is a true emblem of the New York experience, a timeless classic of refined taste located on Madison Avenue in the heart of Manhattan's Upper East Side. The Carlyle's rooms and suites are exquisitely decorated by celebrated designers such as Dorothy Draper and Thierry Despont and have stunning views of Central Park and New York. This historic glamour extends to the Spa, finished in shimmering platinum mosaic tiles and a classic black and grey colour scheme, it is reminiscent of 1940s Hollywood and The Carlyle's famed Art Deco style.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from John F. Kennedy Airport / 188 Rooms & Suites / 4 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £1760 per person including flights

CHARMING TOWNS AND BEACHES OF NEW ENGLAND

Tour the most classical region of the United States — with its quaint villages, lush forests, charming seaside towns and peaceful life — while staying at some of the most luxurious and lesser known boutique properties in the Western Hemisphere. Enjoy fantastic dining, cultural sites, sailing, biking, history and relaxation.

DAY 1-2: Fly into Boston to start your New England journey. Your first full day in the city starts with a tour of Harvard, before picking up the history trail with a guided tour of some of Boston's most significant historic locations including Old North Church where the American Revolution is said to have begun.

DAYS 3-4: Collect your hire car and depart the city for Rhode Island, the smallest state in the Union. First stop is Providence, home of Brown University where you can enjoy a tour of this historic Ivy League campus. After lunch a further two hour drive takes you to the coast, just in time for a late afternoon stroll along the beach, before retiring for a gourmet dinner. Next morning, drive to nearby Newport for a day on the water. Begin with a private tour of one of New England's most famous mansions from the gilded age. Then see the mansions and amazing scenery from another vantage point, cruising Narragansett Bay on an antique motor yacht.

DAY 5-6: Swap Rhode Island for Connecticut, the drive takes you through picture postcard scenery, over tiny country bridges and through quaint country towns. Spend the rest of the day on your own relaxing at your unique country resort. Next day explore Litchfield County; rummage through superb antique shops and traditional artisan stores, or perhaps for the more active biking or kayaking appeals. Finish the day with a delicious meal in one of the county's numerous restaurants.

DAYS 7-8: Another day, another state. Head into Massachusetts and Lenox, in the heart of the Berkshires - a hilly region known for its famous arts programs which move from Boston every summer. The art vibe continues on day 8, with a visit to MASS MoCA, one of the largest centres for contemporary visual art and performing arts in the United States. Then visit the highly regarded Norman Rockwell Museum in historic Stockbridge for a private guided tour of museum and grounds. Norman Rockwell captured candid American life in striking paintings that invoke emotion. The galleries present an illustrated chronicle of American life and the nation's ideals of kindness, tolerance, democracy, and freedom illuminated by Rockwell's spirit, wisdom and gentle humour.

DAY 9-10: Cross into your final state today as you head to the stunning Green Mountains of Vermont. On the way visit local artisans, see some famous Vermont bridges and enjoy lunch in Woodstock before arriving at your hotel nestled in the delightful Vermont countryside. The following day is yours to relax and wind down after your travels, although activities such as hiking and canoeing can easily be included should you wish

DAY 11: Drive back to Boston in time for your onward flight

This itinerary provides a thorough exploration of New England and Boston. While a superb trip on its own, it easily combines with other destinations on the East Coast such as a few days in New York at the start or end of the trip.

PRICE Starting from £7100 per person based on two sharing for this particular luxury itinerary including flights from the UK and all tours and experiences mentioned.





TWIN FARMS, Vermont

The wide choice of indoor and outdoor activities across 300 acres of forest, meadows and ponds makes Twin Farms a desirable destination for boosting your sense of well-being. Explore on a mountain bike with a packed lunch of house-made breads, aged Grafton cheddar and cucumber pickle prepared by Chef Rich. Swim or canoe at twilight across Copper Pond, play croquet on the lawn, go fly fishing or sledding or simply relax with a novel from the resort's well-stocked bookshelves. The freestanding cottages at Twin Farms inspire reflection and romance. Designed by architect Peter Bohlin they're constructed of glass and cedar wood, featuring stone hot tubs, wood stoves and rich leather furnishings. Dine by candlelight in rustic splendour in the main house. Your inclusive rate pairs wines with customised meals such as porcini poached Vermont turkey and wild mushroom lentil ragou and cold poached Maine lobster with lemons.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 3 hours from Boston Airport / 20 Rooms / 1 Restaurant and Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Over 16s only (apart from 2 'family weeks' a year when children are welcome)

PRICE 3 nights from £1895 per person, all inclusive

WHITE ELEPHANT HOTEL, Nantucket

Every room in this historic and iconic waterfront hotel on picturesque Nantucket harbour is filled with charm, cocooning you in island elegance. It's close to the boutiques, art galleries and restaurants and a short walk to Brant Point Lighthouse and white sand beaches.

Stay in characterful guestrooms, suites, garden cottages and family-friendly downtown lofts. The ambience is warm and relaxed and the decor is contemporary coastal. Many feature cosy fireplaces. Savour steaks and seafood at Brant Point Grill, one of the most renowned restaurants on Nantucket, sip cocktails on the terrace and Harborside Lawn, and visit the peaceful beauty of the harbourside spa to regain inner peace.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minutes from Nantucket Airport / 64 Rooms / 1 restaurant and bar / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £455 per person





FLORIDA

Florida is known as the Sunshine State and its iconic Keys, with turquoise water surrounding a string of paradise islands, are often referred to as American's Caribbean. But there's more to Florida's beaches than the Keys. There's 1,300 miles of coastline and 825 miles of powder white sand, playing host to surfers, rocket launches, and spectacular sunset views. Pensacola, Daytona and Miami are world-famous names and Florida boasts some of the best beaches on the planet. But there's still more to Florida. People come here to visit high end shopping malls, museums and of course to enter the fantasy world of the theme parks, from Walt Disney World to Universal Studios.

Orlando is home to Cinderella's Castle, as well as to a host of other attractions including Madame Tussauds Orlando, the Orlando Science Centre, water parks and the Exotic Animal Experience. This is not just a city geared for families though. Cool singles will love the bar carved from ice in the ICEBAR as well as the trendy galleries and spas. Meanwhile Miami is one of the most popular vacation destinations in the world, thanks to the funky nightspots on South Beach, the candy-coloured buildings of the Art Deco district and the caffeinated buzz of Little Havana. Festivals, food, American football, basketball and baseball are also on offer.

WHAT'S ON

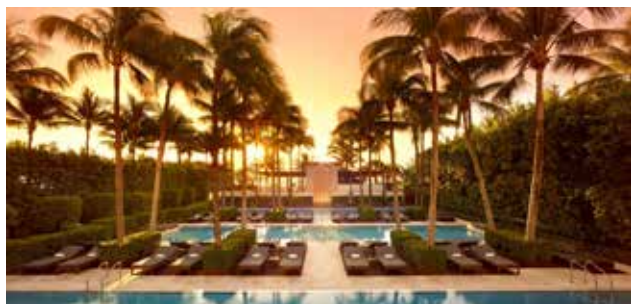
February brings 'Florida State Festival', where over 86 shows and rides can be enjoyed at the Southeast's largest fair. Enjoy an array of musical performances and stage shows from the neighbouring Caribbean Islands at the Tampa Festival in June. Guavaween, also in Tampa, is not to be missed, come October this event brings Halloween festivities that you won't find anywhere else.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways fly daily from London Heathrow to Miami. From London Gatwick, British Airways also fly six times per week to Tampa and five times per week to Orlando (daily during the summer). Flight time to Miami and Orlando is around 9 ½ hours.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

There is no "bad time" to visit Florida as it boasts warm temperatures and sunshine year round, with an average yearly temperature of 28°C. Winters can be milder but remain sunny while summers are warm with occasional short showers.



THE SETAI, Miami

The two very different buildings that comprise the oceanfront resort of The Setai, in the heart of South Beach, have serenity, grace, timelessness and service in common and have both undergone a recent refresh making them more stunning than ever. The Art Deco landmark building was originally built between 1936 – 1938 as the famed Dempsey Vanderbilt Hotel. Next to it is the 40-storey glass tower, a monument of modern design innovation. Together the two buildings reflect the rich architectural history of the neighbourhood.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes from Miami Airport / 130 Rooms & Suites / 1 Restaurant and Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Watersports / Tennis / Children Welcome

PRICE 7 nights from £2995 per person including flights



ST REGIS BAL HARBOUR, Miami

Bal Harbour, is one of the world's wealthiest villages and favoured by musicians and entertainers. Manicured streets and the landscaped beach add to the exclusivity. St Regis Bal Harbour has great prestige here, located opposite the celebrated shops and close to lively South Beach. Guest rooms are fittingly lush, with private balconies boasting the widest all-ocean views in South Florida. The Royal Suite features three oversized glass enclosed balconies. Marble bathrooms and high tech gadgetry adds to the ambience. Rejuvenate in the Couples Treatment Room at Remède Spa. Eat Greek at Atlantikós or French fare at La Gourmandise and let the kids have the time of their lives at Sea Turtle Club.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Miami Airport / 243 Rooms / 4 Restaurants and Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / 2 Swimming Pools / Children Welcome with Club

PRICE 7 nights from £2,270 per person including flights



THE BETSY HOTEL, South Beach

The Betsy is a historic luxury hotel located in the Art Deco District and this together with a commitment to the arts plays a big part in what makes it so special. Its programme of cultural events includes the informal Jazz Series in the Lobby Salon with performances from world-renowned musicians. Escribte Aquí, an annual writing festival, hosts authors across different languages in The Writer's Room. The inviting accommodation also fosters creative reflection. Dine in the LT Steak & Seafood restaurant which draws on the vibrant energy of Miami for its inspired menus, or sip cocktails in the sunny conservatory in the Art Deco wing.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes from Miami Airport / 61 Rooms / 2 Restaurants and 2 Bars / Outdoor Spa and Yoga / Fitness Centre / 2 Swimming Pools / Children welcome

PRICE 7 nights from £1670 per person including flights



FOUR SEASONS RESORT ORLANDO AT WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT

Enjoy the magic like never before; either a Four Seasons-only getaway, with golf, spa and even a fun-filled island for kids, or make it your base for a Disney filled adventure. Located within the enchanted gates of Walt Disney World® Resort, the new Four Seasons, Orlando is where you'll discover a perfect, personalised blend of Disney benefits and Four Seasons experiences.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Orlando Airport / 444 Rooms & Suites / 5 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Golf / Open-air Cinema / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome with Club

PRICE 7 nights from £2145 per person including flights

THE WESTERN USA

Western USA embraces the Golden State of California and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. The hilly city is visited for its fabled cable cars and picturesque Victorian houses as well as Alcatraz Island which lays in the bay, site of the notorious former prison.

The glorious winemaking country of the Napa Valley is a bucolic pastoral idyll, and haven for hiking, biking and of course wine-tasting. There are over 400 wineries and ninety-five percent of them are family-owned and operated, making each one unique and special. The Pacific shoreline of Oregon remains relatively untouched and a road trip along U.S. 101, otherwise known as the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway, will take you past historic lighthouses and harbours, dunes, vast headlands and stretches of pristine beach.

A road trip of a different kind takes you past gates of the luxurious estates of Beverley Hills, home to the rich and famous. Cruise up Sunset Boulevard and the palm-lined Rodeo Drive with the stretch limousines. For even more larger than life glitz, there's Las Vegas, in Nevada's Mojave Desert. This is a city famed for its 24-hour casinos and four mile long Strip, lined with super extravagant shows and glittering hotels decorated with replicas of Egyptian pyramids and fountains synchronised to music. Be overwhelmed in a different way by the magnitude of the Grand Canyon, 446km long and 1.6km deep. Its colours and erosional shapes are a true wonder of the world.

WHAT'S ON

UCLA Jazz Reggae Festival is celebrated late May in Los Angeles - an outdoor festival incorporating food, music, dance and culture. November brings FLAVOR! to Napa Valley, a celebration of varied foods and fine wines with lectures, tastings and classes. While in Vegas throughout the year you will be spoilt for choice with award winning theatre and musical performances. December often sees Whales off the coast of Oregon.

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways offer direct flights to a number of Western Hubs, with daily flights to San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas and Seattle. Flight time to San Francisco is around 11 hours, to Los Angeles 11 ¼ hours, to San Diego 11 ½ hours, to Las Vegas 10 ¾ hours, and to Seattle 9 ¾ hours.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Western USA comprises a large geographical area, with a range of climates. In general, California and the Las Vegas area can be visited all year round although spring and early autumn are perhaps best, especially if wanting to visit National Parks which see freezing temperatures during winter months. Oregon and the Northwest are best visited in Spring and Summer.

LUXURY CALIFORNIA FOR THE FAMILY

The drive from San Francisco to Los Angeles down the famed Route 1 is the ultimate family holiday. Sail under the Golden Gate Bridge and then bike over it, meet whales and dolphins up close from an amazing eco-raft in Monterey Bay, followed by an animal encounter at the famous Aquarium. Learn to surf as a family in Santa Barbara and then kayak into caves in the remote Channel Islands. See where your favourite movie was filmed in Los Angeles, helicopter over the homes of the stars, and end with relaxing time in Laguna Beach.

DAY 1-3: Fly to San Francisco and enjoy an incredible few days in the city. Start by enjoying a complete city tour of San Francisco and all its iconic sites, including the Golden Gate Bridge and historic cable cars. The tour covers the various hills and neighbourhoods of San Fran allowing you to completely immerse yourself in the city. On the first evening head over to Alcatraz to complete your San Francisco experience. Day 3 offers something really special as you have the opportunity to sail around the Bay including under the Golden Gate Bridge, before visiting Sausalito on the other side of the bay.

DAYS 4-5: Pick up your hire car and head out onto the iconic Pacific Coast Highway for the journey south to Carmel Valley Ranch. En route take a helicopter trip out of Monterey Bay to see the stunning scenery of Big Sur and the Bay – if you're lucky you may even spot a whale or two. If you don't though don't worry as on day 5 you will head out on your own private boat to spend the morning trying to get up close to a variety of whales and dolphins. In the afternoon there is time for a tour of the famous Monterey Bay Aquarium.

DAYS 6: Head further south down the picturesque Californian coast to Pismo Beach where you can end your day with a delicious meal overlooking the Pacific.

DAYS 7-8: There's time for some surfing in the morning with a lesson included for beginners, before you hit the road again heading towards Santa Barbara. One you have arrived at the Belmond El Encanto Ranch you will have enough time for a superb sunset horse ride, before a delicious evening meal. The next day is another day on the water, this time kayaking along the Santa Barbara waterfront, before the chance to try out Scuba diving in the afternoon.

DAYS 9-12: Depart for Los Angeles for three days in this incredible city. Start by immersing yourself into the world of Los Angeles 11,000 years ago on a privately guided tour through La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, including its stunning collection of fossils. Next day, prepare to be immersed in the complete Universal Studios Hollywood experience with a personal tour guide who will escort you to a special trolley that will transport you through the world's largest working movie studio. Covering four acres and 13 city blocks, Universal Studios houses everything from an award-winning sound department to giant prop warehouses. In the afternoon, it's time for you to visit and explore the famous theme park. Skip the lines and secure the best seats to all the park's rides and attractions with the aid of your personal guide. Your final day in the city will take you on a classic tour of Hollywood and Beverly Hills including all the famous sites.

DAY 12-15: Your last stop on your Californian adventure is Laguna Beach. After a morning drive from Los Angeles you will have the afternoon to relax and admire the cliff top views of your hotel. The next day choose between a day at the Aquarium or visiting Legoland. While your final day in California is spent in San Diego at the world famous Zoo.

DAY 16: Return to Los Angeles in time for your flight back home.

This itinerary is a family trip to California, but can of course be modified to suit people of all ages, budgets and interests

PRICE Starting from £8500 per person based on two sharing for this particular luxury adventure including flights from the UK and all tours and experiences mentioned



ST. REGIS SAN FRANCISCO, Museum District

The St Regis boasts a prime address in the vibrant SoMA district, which means that guest rooms float above the cityscape. Among its many claims to fame, the St Regis has played host to jazz greats including Count Basie and Duke Ellington, a musical legacy that continues with live performances from the next generation of jazz icons. It's also where the famous Bloody Mary cocktail of tomato juice and vodka was invented, a drink that remains a St Regis signature to this day, along with Butler service and Bentley rides.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 25 minutes from San Francisco Airport / 260 Rooms & 46 Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Swimming Pool

PRICE 3 nights from £690 per person



THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL, Los Angeles

A legendary hotel famous for its legendary film star guests, the Beverly Hills Hotel, boasts a showy setting on fabled Sunset Boulevard. It's tastefully renovated luxury rooms, suites and extravagant bungalows are sheltered by twelve acres of tropical gardens. Of course there's a palm tree lined pool with private cabanas for Hollywood-style relaxation, and the Cabana Cafe is a great place to dine al fresco on wood fired pizzas. But you'll also want to experience the fabulously famous Polo Lounge restaurant, frequented by generations of Hollywood's movers and shakers. Parks, gardens, the chic boutiques of Rodeo Drive and famous Mulholland Drive are all close by.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour from Los Angeles Airport / 208 Rooms and Suites / 4 Restaurants and bars / Spa / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £1,285 per person



BELMOND EL ENCANTO, Santa Barbara

Belmond El Encanto is an iconic 1920s hillside hideaway that embodies Californian laid-back luxury. The historic architectural features have been carefully preserved while being enhanced with tasteful modern additions, including boutique spa and infinity-edged swimming pool. The resort is surrounded by seven acres of lush gardens, where you can bask in the balmy West Coast air and take in the panoramic views of Santa Barbara and the Pacific Ocean.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 90 minutes from Los Angeles Airport / 70 Rooms & 22 Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool

PRICE 3 nights from £745 per person



CARMEL VALLEY RANCH, Big Sur

Set in five-hundred acres of idyllic countryside in the heart of the wine-producing district, Carmel Valley Ranch extends from the coastal village of Carmel-by-the-Sea into the heart of the Santa Lucia Mountains, a mecca for hiking, biking, surfing, kayaking and golf. Suites are scattered across a lush playground split between three individual neighbourhoods, each with a unique personality: stunning tree lined views, sun-soaked bluffs and intimate courtyards with gardens that attract wildlife.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from San Francisco Airport / 139 Suites / 2 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Tennis / Fitness Centre / Golf/ Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £630 per person



MANDARIN ORIENTAL, Las Vegas

Soaring 47 stories above the strip, Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas is part of an unparalleled urban resort development. A stunning glass façade affords dynamic views of the city and desert beyond and the hotel offers a haven of calm and tranquillity when you need it most, all in an ultra-stylish setting with the signature influences of Asia you can expect from the Mandarin name. These subtle oriental touches are continued in the contemporary styled rooms and suites which boast sleek lines and sumptuously comfortable beds. Facilities include an eight-floor pool deck and a stunning 27,000 square foot spa split over two levels offering a relaxed retreat above Las Vegas. Culinary temptations include a fine dining restaurant by Three Michelin Star Chef, Pierre Gagnaire as well as the MOzen Bistro, which carries on the Asian theme with mouth-watering far eastern dishes

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 15 minutes from Las Vegas Airport / 392 Rooms & Suites / 3 Restaurants & Bars / Swimming Pool / Spa / Beauty Salon / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £1730 per person including flights

ARIA, Las Vegas

Designed by celebrated architects, the contemporary look of ARIA tower complements the resort's sumptuous accommodations and attractions, comprising of over 4,000 guest rooms and suites kitted out with the most sophisticated technology which would do James Bond proud! Lighting, room temperature and music are all controlled at the touch of a button so you can lie back and enjoy the spectacular views of Las Vegas through floor-to-ceiling windows. Then there's the casino itself- 15,000 feet of gaming conceived for intimacy and excitement, whether you want to roll the dice or chance your hand at blackjack, roulette, slots or poker! If you're looking for a more exclusive higher stakes game, visit the stunning Carta Privada or the Deuce cocktail lounge, or private salons offering highlimit slot and table games. You can enjoy a relaxing chair massage if you don't want to interrupt your game, or for deeper relaxation visit one of the 62 individual spa treatment rooms; meditation and relaxation rooms, eucalyptus steam rooms or red wood saunas.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 10 minutes from Las Vegas Airport / 3,436 rooms & 568 suites / 18 Restaurants & Bars / Spa / Casino / Children Welcome

PRICE 5 nights from £1385 per person including flights



LAS VEGAS AND THE GRAND CANYON ITINERARY

The glitz and glamour of Las Vegas provide a holiday of a lifetime, with many people spending their whole time in the casinos, shows and restaurants of the famous strip. However, Las Vegas also provides a gateway to some of the most scenic areas of the US. There are many national parks within reach and these offer an incredible alternative to the hustle and bustle of Vegas.

The Grand Canyon is probably the most famous of these destinations and here's an idea of how to spend an incredible four days in the city to encompass this stunning natural wonder:

DAY 1: Arrive into Las Vegas where you will be met at the airport and transferred to the iconic Mandarin Oriental Hotel, your base for the next few days. Enjoy a delicious evening meal and if you're not feeling too tired, head out for an evening on the strip.

DAY 2: Spend the morning exploring the sites and sounds of Las Vegas, before an incredible late afternoon helicopter trip out to the Grand Canyon. As part of a small group you will fly over the canyon for some unique views of the area. En route you'll get a bird's eye view of the Las Vegas Strip, as well as the Hoover Dam before reaching the Grand Canyon. As well as flying over the canyon, you'll touch down for canapés and champagne while watching the sunset, a truly extraordinary experience.

DAY 3: Pick up your hire car today, and venture out onto the open road. There are numerous state parks and interesting sites within a day drive, so this is your chance to get out and explore Nevada as you wish, although we can of course help with suggestions.

DAY 4: Today is all about enjoying Las Vegas on your last day – you have nothing scheduled, so you are free to head off and explore the city on your own. Of course should you wish any help in organising anything during your stay just let us know, we can help with a whole range of experiences. At the end of the day we'll pick you up and take you to the airport for your onward journey.

This is a fantastic way to experience Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon and is the perfect starting or end point for a larger trip.

PRICE Starting from £1340 per person based on two sharing, this doesn't include international flights, but does include all experiences and excursions mentioned.



THE ALLISON INN AND SPA, Willamette Valley

The Allison Inn & Spa Nestles in 35 hillside acres of the verdant Willamette Valley in the beautiful heart of Oregon wine country. There are seven acres of vineyard on the estate, as well as 77 luxury guest rooms and 8 suites, ranging from Terrace, Spa, Main to Penthouse, reached by elevator or the dramatic glass enclosed staircase. Wherever you stay, you'll find cosy upholstered window seats and huge sunny windows with magnificent countryside views. All rooms feature a wet bar, original artwork, and custom crafted furnishings as well as bathrooms that are like mini spas. The Allison Spa itself has twelve treatments rooms, plus swimming pool and whirlpool. The signature JORY restaurant & Bar, with wine cellar, promises an authentic taste of wine country cuisine.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 1 hour from Portland Airport / 85 Rooms and Suites / 1 Restaurant and Bar / Spa / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £595 per person

SONOMA TO NAPA: A FOOD AND WINE LOVER'S HEAVEN

Hot air ballooning over vineyards and farms, biking to local bakers and artisan cheese makers, meeting with creators of some of the best wines in North America, and trying their produce. Simply the best way to experience Napa Valley and Sonoma County.

DAY 1-3: Upon your arrival at San Francisco International Airport, your driver will be waiting to whisk you away in a luxury SUV to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to relax and enjoy your new surroundings in the heart of Sonoma Valley. The real fun starts the next day with an incredible bike tour of the Valley, the tour is punctuated with stops for wine tastings as well as a gourmet picnic set against the backdrop of superb Sonoma views. After the wine of day 2, day 3 is all about the food! First stop on your tour is a local farm, famed for its cheeses which of course you get to sample before a delicious lunch. The afternoon sees you first at a local honey producer, before finishing off by sampling delicious oysters at a local oyster farm. Once you're full, your driver will take you on to your hotel in the Napa Valley.

DAY 4-5: It simply wouldn't be right to start your time in the Napa Valley with anything other than a day of wine tastings. First start with one of the valleys most famous producers who will explain the history and philosophy of winemaking in Napa, before moving on to a smaller vineyard where you will have a private tasting followed by a delicious picnic lunch. Your final stop is a fantastic vineyard which will teach you about how best to pair wine and food. An early start the next day is well worth it as you take a dawn hot air balloon ride over Napa. After a delicious brunch, and perhaps a nap your afternoon experience is all about chocolate. Enjoy a Willy Wonka inspired adventure during a private tour the Kollar Chocolate factory! Meet with the chocolatier, well known for an artistic approach to chocolate making and innovative combinations of flavor. End your wine country experience with a cooking class. Let your expert chef, trained by French master chefs and apprenticed with the former White House pastry chef, teach you the essentials of whipping up a culinary masterpiece.

DAY 6: Transfer back to San Francisco

This itinerary is a food and wine lover's dream, it can of course be modified to suit people of all ages and budgets and works fantastically as a trip on its own or can included as part of a larger trip to the region

PRICE Starting from £6850 per person based on two sharing for this particular luxury itinerary including all tours and experiences mentioned and flights from the UK.



AUBERGE DU SOLEIL, Napa Valley

For many, the name Auberge du Soleil is associated with cuisine, the inn of the same name a delightful afterthought. It was the breathtaking Napa Valley views that inspired French-born restaurateur Claude Rouas to recreate the sun-drenched ambiance of a Provençal restaurant in the California Wine Country. Today, the Auberge is as fresh and forward-thinking as it was when it pioneered a new style of laid-back luxury, now updated with a bright, rich look reminiscent of a secluded Côte d'Azur retreat.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from San Francisco Airport / 50 Rooms, Suites & Private Maisons / 1 Restaurants & 1 Bar / Spa / Fitness Centre / Tennis / Complimentary Mercedes hire / Swimming Pool

PRICE 3 nights from £1180 per person



CALISTOGA RANCH, An Auberge Resort, Napa Valley

The luxurious 50 room Calistoga Ranch is a perfect place to enjoy the rich culture of food, wine and nature that makes the region so special. Nestled in its very own canyon in the Upper Napa Valley, amid more than a hundred acres of oak groves and hills, Calistoga even has its own private lake. Lodges offer a magical indoor-outdoor living experience as does The Lakehouse restaurant, with its glass walls and open decks. A sensuous feast awaits.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 2 hours from San Francisco Airport / 50 Lodges / 2 Restaurants & 1 Lounge Bar / Spa / Wine Cave / Complimentary Mercedes hire / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £1050 per person

HAWAII

The six islands of Hawaii are distinctly different, though all bathed in calm, warm waters and scented with flowers. Lanai is the smallest inhabited island in Hawaii. There are championship golf courses contrasting with rugged roads and beauty spots with enticing names like the Garden of the Gods, a strange otherworldly landscape, and Sweetheart Rock, or Puu Pehe, which is steeped in legend. Watch spinner dolphins play in the bay; hike to sweeping vistas amongst the majestic Cook pine trees and drive to Kaunapali Harbor to watch the most romantic sunset.

Maui is known as the Valley Isle. Inland are rolling hills and misty mountains, scented with eucalyptus. There are quaint towns, communities of artists and restaurants serving the islands signature farm to table cuisine. Look down on cascading waterfalls and seas of clouds and watch 45 foot whales frolic off the coast. Lahaina is a historic whaling town, now popular as a gathering place due to its art galleries, shops and restaurants.

WHAT'S ON

April to June sees the Mele Mele festival of Hawaiian music, with numerous musical performances celebrating the rich history of music on the islands. Lei Day on the 1st of May is an incredible celebration of Hawaiian life that takes place every year, with each island represented by a specific flower and colour, gifts are exchanged and in general much merriment is had!

HOW TO GET THERE

Fly to Hawaii from London with British Airways, in just over 17 hours. Flights from London Heathrow to Los Angeles take around 11 hours, with onward flights to Hawaii operated by British Airways partners American Airlines taking around six hours. You can also travel through San Francisco which is a similar time in the air.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Hawaii basks in a tropical climate with warm temperatures of between 20°C (68°F) and 30°C (86°F) throughout the year. Perhaps it is best to avoid the wettest months between November and April although rainfall can occur at any time. Interestingly it is quite common for the individual islands to have their own micro-climates, and as a general rule the north-eastern parts of the islands are wetter than the south-western regions.



FOUR SEASONS RESORT LANAI

Lanai is Hawaii's last unspoiled paradise island and Four Seasons Resort Lanai makes the most of it. There is romance and adventure to be had on land, water and in the sky. The resort sits on a bluff overlooking the marine sanctuary of Hulopoe Bay, which attracts spinner dolphins and humpback whales. The main building and separate two-storey buildings housing 213 guest rooms, including 45 suites, are surrounded by botanical gardens and tranquil koi ponds, with the Pacific coast as a backdrop. Excursions include 4x4 off-roading and sailing trips for all the family. The beautiful Manele Golf Course is also near by. Nobu Lanai specialises in Japanese cuisine while Malibu Farm showcases delicious healthy dishes and the exclusive Hawanawana spa experience for two begins with a personalised combination of blissful massages and body treatments.

THE ESSENTIALS 45 minute flight from Honolulu Airport / 236 Rooms / 4 Restaurants and Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Golf Course / Multiple Swimming Pools / Children Welcome
PRICE 7 nights from £4130 per person



HOTEL WAILEA, Hawaii

From this couples retreat on a tropical hillside 300 feet above the sea on the island of Maui, you can enjoy 180 degree views across the ocean to three Hawaiian islands. The 15 acre estate houses just 72 suites - glamorous beach houses featuring coral and limestone walls and bleached white oak floors. Highlight activities include an excursion on a traditional Hawaiian outrigger canoe, and a Kiteboarding Academy. The Restaurant is Hawaii's first and only Relais & Châteaux restaurant. Chef de Cuisine is Maui native Zach Sato, who fuses modern and traditional homegrown flavours. You can also dine beneath a canopy of mango and avocados in The Treehouse.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 25 minutes from Kahului Airport / 72 Rooms / 1 Restaurant and 1 Bar plus private dining experience / Spa / Fitness Centre / Swimming Pool / Beach Club / Adults only
PRICE 7 nights from £1,550 per person



MONTAGE KAPALUA BAY, Hawaii

This beachfront resort on Kapalua Bay captures the spirit of Hawaii. You'll be immersed in island culture and hospitality from the moment you arrive. The architecture of the Cane & Canoe restaurant honours the comfortable, communal atmosphere of a traditional Hawaiian canoe house and the cuisine celebrates Hawaii's rich culture. The spa features a eucalyptus steam room, cedar wood sauna, cascading whirlpool, and bamboo rainfall showers and tumbling over three tiers to the Pacific Ocean, the Sunset Pool is a watery wonderland for all ages. Residences range from One Bedroom Garden View Residence, to Four Bedroom Premier Ocean Grand Residence.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 35 minutes from Kahului Airport / 62 Rooms / 3 Restaurants and Bars / Spa / Tennis Courts / Swimming Pool / Children Welcome
PRICE 7 nights from £3050 per person



THE DEEP SOUTH

Music connects the life and soul of the Deep South and it draws music fans on pilgrimages as well as travellers.

Nashville is known as Music City, with a legacy that stretches back hundreds of years. It's also the 'Songwriting Capital of the World' and artists like Robert Plant, Black Eyed Peas, Bon Jovi, and Michael Buble have come to write and record here. The Kings of Leon, Justin Timberlake and Jack White, among others, call it home. Experience it for yourself with a visit to historic RCA Studio B where Elvis and Dolly Parton recorded hundreds of songs.. Visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and famous Honky Tonk Highway, where music blasts out 365 days of the year. There's also an emerging culinary scene in Nashville, to feed your senses in a different way, from casual barbecues to fine dining,

Memphis is another musical destination. On the Mississippi River, it's famous for being the birthplace of the blues, soul and rock 'n' roll. Elvis, B.B. King and Johnny Cash recorded albums at the legendary Sun Studio, and Presley's Graceland mansion is a popular attraction, as is the Memphis Music Hall of Fame, Gibson Guitar Factory and the Zoo! Lose yourself to the blues on Beale St and savour smoky pulled pork barbecues.

WHAT'S ON

The famous New Orleans Mardi Gras takes place every February and draws thousands to the city, while the city's French routes can be seen in the music and tradition of Bastille Day in July. As is to be expected musical festivals abound in the Deep South. Nashville celebrates with Awesome April, a month of musical and dance performances demonstrating the city's heritage throughout the city. May is the month to visit Memphis, with the month long music festival featuring top class musicians from all over the world

HOW TO GET THERE

British Airways flies direct to Nashville up to 5 times a week from London. This complement the airlines 5 flights a week to New Orleans.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

Heat and humidity make the southern states oppressive in July and August and mild between November and April although it can drop as low as zero in the north of the region. Therefore April, May, June, September and October are generally the best months to visit.

MUSIC AND DRINK OF THE DEEP SOUTH

Few place names have appeared in music as often as Nashville, Tennessee, Memphis, Mississippi and New Orleans. Take this tour to see why, and also get to taste some amazing local specialities and learn about the culture and history of the area.

DAY 1-2: Fly in to Nashville, if you have time in the afternoon head out for a guided tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame. Spend the next day seeing the best of Tennessee, venture out into the rolling hills and explore Whisky country before returning to the city for a taste of some good old country music in one of the city's most famous bars.

DAYS 3-4: Breakfast in Nashville and spend some time sampling the city's famous culinary delights, before heading on to Memphis in the afternoon. There's time for a stop at the Johnny Cash museum as well as a tour of Sun Studio, where the great man himself recorded. The next morning take a break from music and visit the Civil Rights Museum, the infamous site of the death of Martin Luther King Jr. The musical theme returns in the afternoon with a trip to Graceland for a VIP tour including dinner in the grounds

DAY 5: Mississippi today, as you head to the centre of Blues music, including a visit to the BB King museum, as well as numerous other locations considered key in the popularisation of blues music.

DAY 6-7: New Orleans is calling, so drive on into Louisiana stopping first in Baton Rouge for a tour of the Rural Life Museum, a fascinating insight into the countryside way of life of the state. The late afternoon is spent in New Orleans, learning how to make delicious Louisiana Cocktails and enjoying a traditional Creole dinner at one of the city's most authentic restaurants. The gastronomic delights continue the next day as you head to the French Quarter to learn about the Big Easy's history through the prism of food and drink as you visit some of the city's top culinary and cocktail establishments, from high-end restaurants and gentleman's bars to hole-in-the-wall groceries and pubs. Round off this amazing trip, as VIP guests at the show of a bona fide Jazz legend in one of New Orleans atmospheric Jazz Clubs.

DAY 8: Depart from New Orleans Airport.

This itinerary is a music lover's luxury trip to the Deep South, but can of course be modified to suit people of all ages, budgets and interests

PRICE Starting from £3750 per person based on two sharing, for the luxury adventure including international flights from the UK and all tours and experiences mentioned



THOMPSON NASHVILLE, Nashville

Nashville is synonymous with music, and this downtown luxury boutique hotel is infused with the creative spirit of the city, with Music Row on one side and the downtown honky tonks of Broadway on the other. Sliding barn doors and hardwood floors in the rooms create yet more Nashville ambience, while floor to ceiling windows frame downtown views and scenes from The Gulch, the popular district of restaurants, bars, and nightlife. Sip cocktails on the rooftop bar before savouring seafood at the Mash House, where Old South meets New South. Part of the fabric of the town, Thompson Nashville shares the same block as famed bluegrass music hub The Station Inn and nearby is The Bridgestone Arena where you can listen to the music that has made Nashville so famous.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes from Nashville Airport / 224 Rooms / 2 Restaurants and 1 Bar / Fitness Centre / Children Welcome
PRICE 3 nights from £735 per person



PEABODY HOTEL, Memphis

The Peabody has a quirky history. It dates back to the mid 1800s and by 1925 was the 'South's Grand Hotel.' In 1933 ducks were introduced to the lobby fountain, and so began a tradition that continues to this day with the March of the Peabody Ducks! In 1981 the Peabody Memphis was restored to its former glory with modernized rooms and suites. Jack Daniel's Tennessee whiskey is the popular tipple at the Peabody. Try the 'Peabody Select' Jack Daniel's Single Barrel or the signature cocktail, the Jack Daniel's Peach Sour. Dine on classic French cuisine at Chez Phillipe, considered one of the most romantic restaurants in the US.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes from Memphis Airport / 464 Rooms / 2 Restaurants and 2 Bars / Spa / Fitness Centre / Indoor Swimming Pools / Children Welcome
PRICE 3 nights from £455 per person

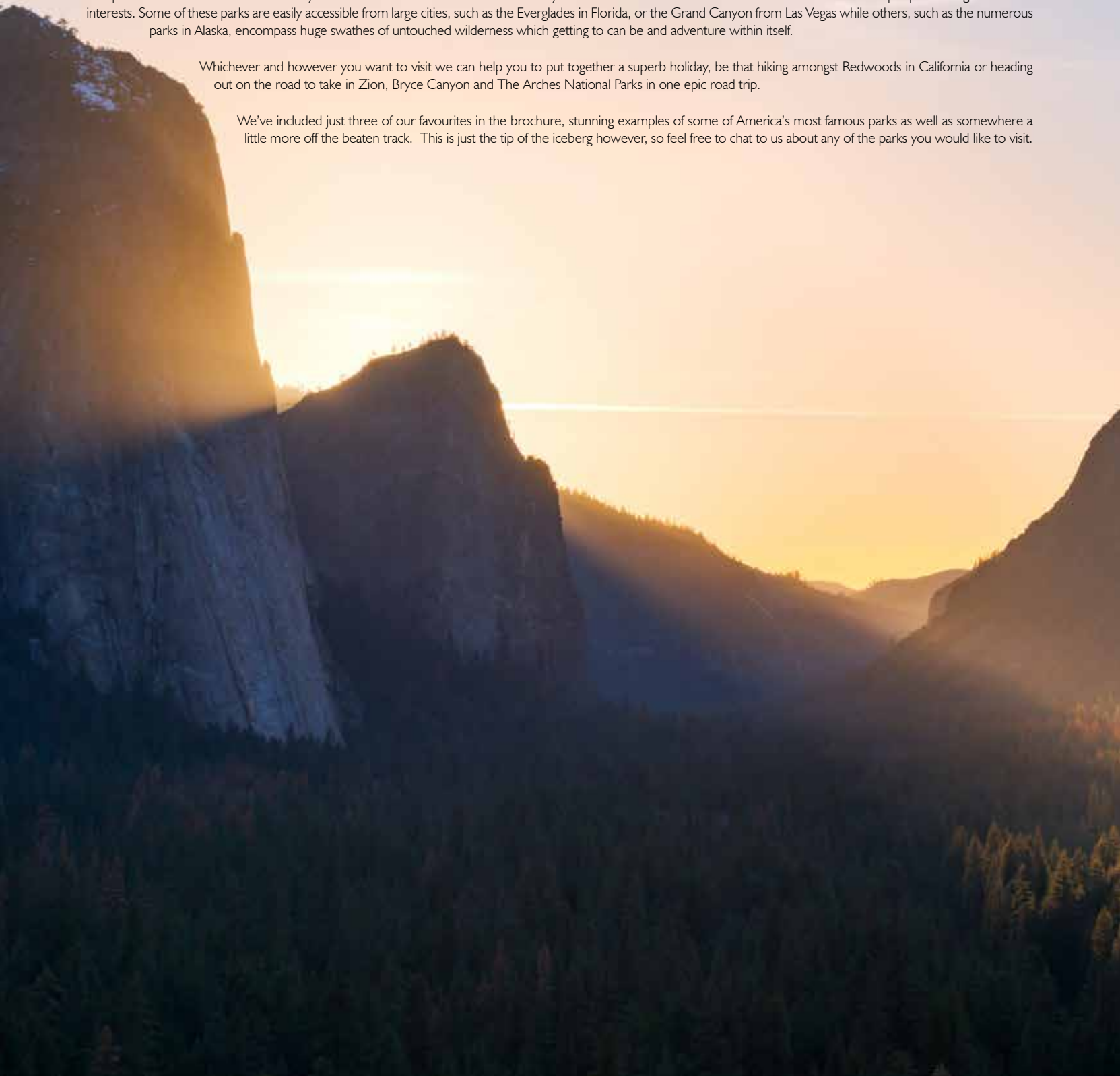
NATIONAL PARKS

American's National Parks are vast outdoor playgrounds visited for their breathtaking natural beauty and opportunity for adventure. There are 59 parks throughout the USA in 28 different states and they provide an incredible way to experience this stunningly beautiful country.

The parks showcase the incredible variety of the United States and the diverse scenery and activities available in them makes them a destination for people of all ages and of all interests. Some of these parks are easily accessible from large cities, such as the Everglades in Florida, or the Grand Canyon from Las Vegas while others, such as the numerous parks in Alaska, encompass huge swathes of untouched wilderness which getting to can be an adventure within itself.

Whichever and however you want to visit we can help you to put together a superb holiday, be that hiking amongst Redwoods in California or heading out on the road to take in Zion, Bryce Canyon and The Arches National Parks in one epic road trip.

We've included just three of our favourites in the brochure, stunning examples of some of America's most famous parks as well as somewhere a little more off the beaten track. This is just the tip of the iceberg however, so feel free to chat to us about any of the parks you would like to visit.





YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone, spanning the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, was opened in 1872, becoming the world's first national park. It's still one of the most spectacular, home to over 60% of the world's geysers, such as the fabled Old Faithful, which erupts in towers of boiling water. Bears, bison, elk and wolves roam wild and free in the forests, canyons, and mountains of Yellowstone.



YOSEMITE

Yosemite is famed for its thousands of magnificent waterfalls, such as Bridalveil falls, which cascade in ribbons over stupendous rock formations and towering cliffs. The valley is emerald green, contrasting with the rust red bark of the giant sequoias in Mariposa Grove. There's a vast array of activities to choose from...rafting, biking and rock-climbing in summer and skiing, snowshoeing, snow tubing and ice skating in the deep winter.



SHENANDOAH

The Shenandoah National Park, 75 miles west of Washington, DC, may not be quite so famous as Yellowstone and Yosemite, but it's no less beautiful. In spring and summer it's blanketed in wildflowers and in autumn it's ablaze with bright red, orange and gold foliage. There are 500 miles of trails, including a section of the Appalachian Trail, the longest hiking-only footpath in the world.

RANCH & ADVENTURE

There's no better way to experience the American Wild West than by being a wrangler, cowboy or cowgirl on a working cattle ranch. Spend the day in the saddle on a cattle drive, riding beneath a wide open sky, over vast open plains, through a rugged landscape of pine forests and snow-capped mountains. Try your hand at lasso and rodeo skills, feast on a breakfast of blueberry pancakes and bacon and end the day in the convivial glow of a campfire, serenaded by banjo. Or take a ride in a horse-drawn chuck wagon to an authentic chuck wagon dinner of Angus prime ribs, fresh corn and asparagus, baked beans and fresh fruit cobbler.

You might catch sight of the iconic wild mustangs, prairie dogs, eagles and hawks. Azure's collection of ranches give you plenty of choice. Nestle in the heart of the Grand Circle, close to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park and Monument Valley, or stay in luxury safari-style tents or stylishly rustic cabins with huge stone fireplaces and windows framing views of Big Sky Country.



AMANGIRI, Canyon Point, Utah

Amangiri is at the centre of the Grand Circle, close to the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley. The clean lines of the white stone floors, concrete walls, natural timbers and blackened steel blend seamlessly with this timeless landscape of canyons and desert. Every suite has an outdoor lounge that looks out over the dunes, plateaus and ever changing colours of the rock faces. Spa treatments reflect the healing traditions of the Navajo, aiming to restore inner equilibrium through the four elements of life and destruction – earth, wind, fire and water.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Page Airport (Flights from Phoenix Airport to Page Airport) / 34 Suites / 1 Restaurant / Spa / Fitness Centre / Fishing / Art Gallery / Swimming Pool

PRICE 3 nights £1605 per person, full board



RANCH AT ROCK CREEK, Philipsburg, Montana

The Ranch at Rock Creek, in Montana's Flint Creek Valley, has been a working cattle ranch since the 1800s. The all-inclusive rate structure means you can soak up the American West with a stay in the Historic Barn or get closer to nature while basking in luxury in a Glamping Cabin. The Chef's Tasting Menu will take you on a culinary tour of a Montana harvest after you spend the days horseback riding or fly fishing and looking forward to a Saddle Sore Soak in the Granite Spa.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 90 minutes from Missoula Airport / 9 Rooms plus Tents, Houses and Cabins / 2 Restaurants / Spa / Bike Riding / Fishing / Horse-riding

PRICE 3 nights from £2300, fully inclusive



THE RESORT AT PAWS UP, Greenough, Montana

A family-owned, working cattle ranch in Montana, The Resort at Paws Up comprises 37,000 acres of wilderness, ripe for adventure. Stay in a stylish safari-style tent or luxuriously rustic wooden vacation home with slate flooring, huge stone fireplace and awesome views of the Big Sky Country. Spend your days on cattle drives, whitewater rafting and fly-fishing. This is a wonderland for children; they can shoot the rapids or bows and arrows, go paintballing and horse riding and mine for real sapphires. Feast on French toast and handmade sausages, Rocky Mountain trout and Napa Valley Chardonnay. And on snowy days, there's nowhere cosier than the Morris Ranch House for spa treatments.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Missoula International Airport / Rooms & luxury tents / 1 Restaurant & Private Chef / Spa / Water sports / Adventure Activities / Children Welcome with Club

PRICE 3 nights from £2465 per person, fully inclusive

CANADA AND ALASKA

Canada is an awe-inspiring land for lovers of the great outdoors. British Columbia has some of the best skiing, hiking and kayaking in the world, and The Rockies is a legendary outdoor wonderland of majestic mountains, lucid lakes and fairytale forests. Vancouver is a beautiful harbour city and a capital of culture and cuisine, while lovely Tofino on Vancouver Island has a laid-back hippy, surfy vibe with dramatic beaches backed by densely wooded mounds. Hear the 'Call of the Wild' in Alaska, an epic, frontier land of gigantic glaciers, waterfalls and wolves, and areas where no man has gone before.

WHAT'S ON

Join the unique festivities in Quebec and celebrate the Winter Carnival in February whilst the annual Calgary Stampede is a tribute to all things rodeo cowboy and takes place every year in July. Experience an authentic Oktoberfest Festhalle in Toronto in October or be inspired at the annual Whistler Film Festival in December, featuring innovative and original films from around the world. Bears are best seen between May and September in Alaska.

HOW TO GET THERE

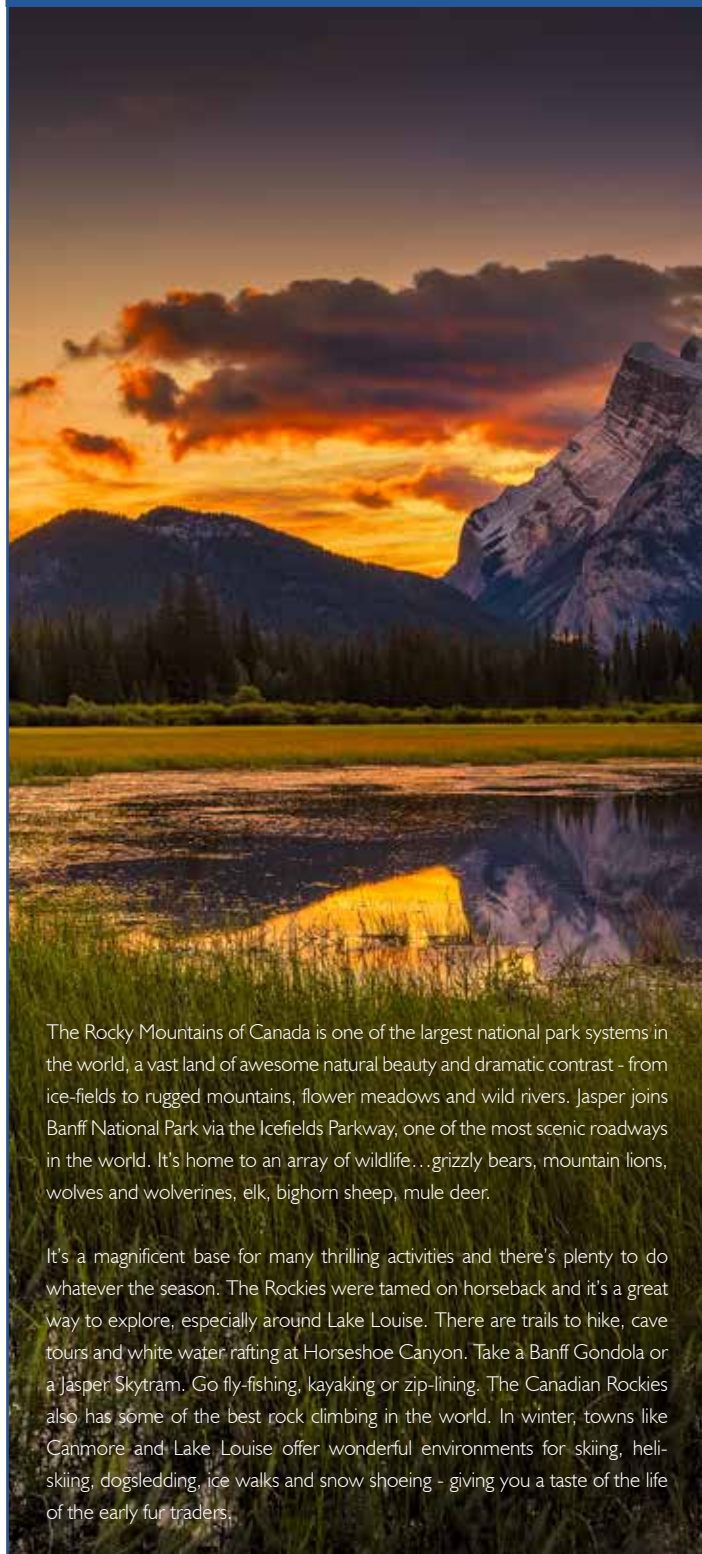
Flights to the eastern side of Canada will take on average 7 hours, whilst those to Vancouver take just over 9 hours. British Airways currently fly to Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver from London. Alaska is only reachable indirectly via a connection elsewhere in the US, using British Airways and one of their codeshare partners.

WHEN TO TRAVEL

As the second largest country in the world Canada has a varied climate. In general it follows a similar pattern to the UK, with warm summer, pleasant autumn and cold winter. Alaska is generally best visited during our summer, as large swathes of it are inaccessible during winter.



CANADIAN ROCKIES



The Rocky Mountains of Canada is one of the largest national park systems in the world, a vast land of awesome natural beauty and dramatic contrast - from ice-fields to rugged mountains, flower meadows and wild rivers. Jasper joins Banff National Park via the Icefields Parkway, one of the most scenic roadways in the world. It's home to an array of wildlife...grizzly bears, mountain lions, wolves and wolverines, elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer.

It's a magnificent base for many thrilling activities and there's plenty to do whatever the season. The Rockies were tamed on horseback and it's a great way to explore, especially around Lake Louise. There are trails to hike, cave tours and white water rafting at Horseshoe Canyon. Take a Banff Gondola or a Jasper Skytram. Go fly-fishing, kayaking or zip-lining. The Canadian Rockies also has some of the best rock climbing in the world. In winter, towns like Canmore and Lake Louise offer wonderful environments for skiing, heli-skiing, dogsledding, ice walks and snow shoeing - giving you a taste of the life of the early fur traders.

GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS - THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER



The Rocky Mountaineer is arguably the best way to see the rich history and natural wonders of the Canadian Rockies, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Justifiably named one of the "World's 20 Best Rail Experiences" by International Railway Traveler magazine, the luxurious train journeys through the stunning British Columbia and Alberta. Offering three levels of service, cuisine and cabin quality; the GoldLeaf is premium. You spend your nights at carefully paired hotels, according to your chosen service level (Gold, Silver and RedLeaf) meaning that you do not miss any of the stunning vistas framed from your choice of beautiful rolling coach. This promises to be one of the most incredible journeys in the world.

First Passage to the West: Vancouver – Kamloops - Banff – Lake Louise – Calgary (available East to West or West to East)

This is justifiably the most popular route of the Rocky Mountaineer, combining pioneering history with indomitable scenery. Leave the lush and cosmopolitan Vancouver behind you and approach the semi-arid desert of the Kamloops, before you climb your way into The Canadian Rockies passing through a series of remarkable tunnels beneath snow-capped peaks arriving in Banff, and the end of the track, but not the end of the journey. You continue onwards to the postcard worthy Lake Louise and to experience the Columbia Icefield Glacier Adventure, then on to Calgary for city tour and an unforgettable summit helicopter ride.





ROSEWOOD GEORGIA, Vancouver

Imbued with legacy and luxury, Rosewood Hotel Georgia is one of North America's leading hotels, with a magnificent history that lends it a distinct ambience of grace. Following its grand debut in the roaring '20s, the legendary Hotel Georgia played host to a long list of Hollywood A-listers and royalty, from Marlene Dietrich to Sir Laurence Olivier, Frank Sinatra and the Rolling Stones. After undergoing a full renovation and reopening in 2011 as Rosewood Hotel Georgia, the hotel has been returned to its former grandeur with the additional elegance of extensive amenities and the impeccable service of Rosewood.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 30 minutes from Vancouver Airport / 156 Rooms & Suites / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £275 per person



WICKANINNISH INN, Tofino

On Tofino's wild and rugged Chesterman Beach, the Wickaninnish Inn boasts breathtaking vistas from every guest room, from the 20-foot tall windows in the lobby, and from a Lookout Library. Its history is entwined with the creation of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve; this is rustic elegance on nature's edge. Elements of cedar, fir, driftwood, and stone grace every room, as do the handcrafted driftwood chairs of BC artisan Maxwell Newhouse. The Driftwood Cafe, right on the beach, is a magical place with a wood-burning fire and The Pointe Restaurant is world-renowned, with over 240 degrees of Pacific Ocean views and B.C. based seafood.

THE ESSENTIALS Transfers are 20 minutes from Tofino-Long Beach Airport / 75 Rooms and Suites / 1 Restaurant & Bar / Spa / Golf Course / Hiking / Fishing / Children Welcome

PRICE 3 nights from £474 per person



NIMMO BAY RESORT, British Columbia

This intimate, family-owned wilderness resort, one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, is located in the middle of the Great Bear Rainforest. There are nine cozily spacious wood cabins. The six intertidal are ingeniously designed to allow you to experience the rise and fall of the tide beneath you. Meanwhile the forest cabins sit on the banks of a stream, lulled by a waterfall. Bear watching, kayaking, paddle boarding, Great Bear Rainforest hiking, whale watching, heli-fishing... you create your own itinerary at Nimmo Bay, based on availability. But whatever you do, you'll be nourished by gourmet picnic lunches and coastal cuisine served on the floating fire dock or inside the cozy lodge.

THE ESSENTIALS Accessed only by air or water transfer is via float plane or helicopter and travel times vary / 9 Rooms / Full Board Dining Programme / Activity Packages Available / Children Welcome



SIWASH LAKE RANCH, British Columbia

The remote and exclusive hideaway of Siwash Lake Ranch lies amidst 80,000 acres of wilderness in British Columbia. This is the place for an off-grid adventure between the Rocky Mountains and Pacific coast, in the land of gold-rush dreams, wide skies, rolling prairies, forests and lakes! It's renowned for its Synergy with Horses™ riding program, as well as pasture-to-plate cuisine and safari-inspired tents that are both rustic and refined. Fly-fishing, tomahawk throwing, wilderness survival, water skiing and tubing, heli-adventures, and a forest spa are just some of the many activities on offer, with a Free Range Kids Club for younger guests. It's the place to reconnect with nature and your family and friends.

THE ESSENTIALS Siwash is accessible by float plane, private jet, helicopter and four-wheel drive SUV, transfer times vary / 6 Luxury Tents & Private Cabins / 1 Restaurant and Dining Room / Spa Tent / Children Welcome with Club during the Summer

CRUISING

As one of the world's last great wildernesses, Alaska is a huge and varied region to explore, that's why traversing the state on a cruise is a sensible way to discover the region. We have featured some of the larger boats within this brochure, but the range of options are huge, including small day trips by boat to the longer more expedition style cruises all of which we are happy to help you out with. Itineraries normally include a series of excursions which are as diverse as the Alaskan wilderness you'll explore, from bear watching to helicopter rides, glacier hikes to sea life centres the possibilities are endless.

As a general rule, the majority of the cruises follow the route between Vancouver and the port of Seward for Anchorage, making them a great option for combining with trips to either mainland Alaska, or Western Canada and the US. For those looking for more adventurous routes, some of the options follow an even more exploratory track, crossing the Bering sea and taking in parts of far Eastern Russia and even Japan. Whatever the option you choose, we are happy to help you with booking your dream trip, and of course should you require help with extensions to your journey before or after your cruise we can bring everything together into the holiday of a lifetime.



SILVERSEA CRUISES

Sail to the frozen, untouched beauty of Alaska aboard a Silversea luxury cruise ship and you'll experience a sense of wonder both onboard and off. Watch icebergs float by, breaching Orcas and playful seals. Tour the Denali National Park and embark on wilderness safaris and dog sledging. Then enjoy dinner in-suite served by your butler and fine dining courtesy of the prestigious Grands Chefs Relais & Châteaux. You can also embark on personal programmes of wellness and enrichment with onboard sauna and steam rooms plus seminars ranging from aromatherapy and nutrition. The Expedition Team, guest speakers and Destination Consultants provide further intellectual stimulation.

Various different itineraries and styles of cruise available, please contact us for further details.



REGENT SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

The Seven Seas Mariner is the world's first all-suite, all-balcony luxury liner, with 350 suites and 445 crew members dedicated to providing superlative service. What better way to sail to the frontier towns and awe-inspiring wilderness of Alaska. Popular sights along the way include Resurrection Bay and picturesque Seward, southern terminus for the Alaska Railroad, with its colourful wood-frame houses. See humpback whales breaching, watch Dall's porpoises, sea lions and puffins. Marvel at the stupendous Bear Glacier in the Kenai Fjords National Park and visit Sitka, once the historic centre of Russia's Alaskan empire. Meanwhile on board you'll reside in suites with marble bathrooms and attentive butlers, and dine in the Compass Rose, the spacious and refined flagship restaurant.

Different cruise itineraries and durations available, please contact us for further details



Together we can take you there...



BRITISH AIRWAYS
Preferred Partner

AZURE

Valerie House, 21 Castle Street, Chester, CH1 2DS, United Kingdom
Tel 01244 322770 Fax 01244 322771 E-mail sales@azurecollection.com
azurecollection.com



For full Booking Terms & Conditions and General
Information please visit www.azurecollection.com
or call us on 01244 322770