

# Travel Gems

Travelers seeking renewed closeness to nature will find refuge and reset at these inspiring destinations, favoring exclusivity and water-centric experiences that encompass spontaneous adventure, leisure activities and immersive wellness



## **BAREFOOT ABANDON**

Despite being just a hop from the northeast coast of Zanzibar, andBeyond Mnemba Island eclipses the bustle of Spice Island and grounds guests in a state of barefoot abandon and persistent peace. Recently transformed by the coveted Fox Browne Creative, just twelve open-air bandas, designed to resemble nautilus shells, are drenched in tropical textiles and Swahili accents. Inside, there's a curated bar, workout gear and a feet-in-the-sand lounging area, while an intimate beach banda entices lingering comfortably by the impossibly blue ocean. Snorkeling happens on the house reef or at Small Wall, while scuba diving takes thalassophiles deeper to explore the full scale of the Mnemba Archipelago.

With the ease of private butlers who cater to every whim, days feel blissfully slow and unhurried. Nourishment comes in the form of fresh-caught seafood and hyper-local produce, and activities are on tap. Try kayaking across gin-clear waters, visiting the island's coral nurseries under the care of Oceans Without Borders (OWB), embarking on a charming dhow cruise at dusk, or exploring Zanzibar, which has lured adventurers, seafarers and traders for centuries. Days out at sea can be bookended with yoga and ocean-infused spa ceremonies at the Wellness Banda, like the Lava Seashell Massage. At night, green turtles nest under the moonlight, a rare and wildly indelible sight for a handful of fortunate guests. andbeyond.com

### LAKESIDE SPLENDOR



Grand Hotel Fasano unveils a range of new offerings this season. The historic retreat, which is 135 years old, is situated on the placid shores of Lake Garda, within easy reach of both Venice and Milan. Boasting 86 rooms and five heralded dining options—including the Michelin-starred Il Fagiano—the season opens with a revitalized AQVA Spa and Wellness Center featuring lavish treatment rooms, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, Turkish baths, and a serene spa garden overlooking the lake. There is also the addition of four new suites with unobstructed lake views. Here, guests can seek out helicopter tours of the Dolomites, local wine experiences and scenic water pursuits, including water skiing, windsurfing and paddle boarding. Don't miss an Italian aperitif at sunset on board a historic sailing ship. *ghf.it* 

### PRIVATE ISLAND PARADISE

Accessible only by boat or seaplane, Little Palm Island Resort & Spa has been welcoming guests to the Florida Keys since 1988. The adults-only getaway is one of the sunniest destinations in the U.S., with an average daily year-round temperature of 77° F. The five-acre island has just 30 thatched-roof bungalow suites with vaulted bamboo ceilings, seashell décor, outdoor copper bathtubs with ocean views, and private beach fire pits. The Monkey Hut is the best place to watch the sunset during Harry's Social Hour, named for President Harry Truman, who visited often. Whether you prefer bird watching from a hammock while sipping fresh coconut water or paddle boarding through serene mangrove forests, relaxation is guaranteed. Backcountry sport fishing for tarpon, bonefish and permit is also available for avid anglers. *littlepalmisland.com* 



#### CHILEAN HIDEAWAY



Located near Puerto Varas, Hotel AWA is the ideal base from which to enjoy Chile's Lake District. The country's first certified B Corp hotel features just 25 rooms and suites, as well as a newly unveiled private villa, all overlooking Osorno Volcano and Lake Llanquihue. Just a stroll from the hotel, the four-bedroom AWA Villa offers high-touch personalization for up to eight guests with bespoke excursions and a dedicated private guide and driver. To explore the northern reaches of Chilean Patagonia year-round, hike or bike through Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, horse ride along the beach in Las Tranqueras, flyfish on Petrohué River or book a scenic helicopter flight over the Andes. Make time to visit Sun Springs in Río Puelo, where 10 thermal pools are nestled amongst rugged mountains for nature-induced relaxation. hotelawa.cl

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