

GUILTLESS PLEASURES

Minimise your carbon footprint by taking a break in an eco-friendly resort. Here are nine ways to enjoy five-star luxury with a conscience

LONGITUDE 131

Ayers Rock, Australia

Offering great views of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and its iconic Ayers Rock, the tent-like accommodation is built on steel stilts and aims to provide a luxury camping experience. Guests are expected to walk on the designated paths to minimise environmental impacts. Each of the 15 rooms is themed after an Australian pioneer and is decorated in British Africa feel. Outside the luxuriously furnished room is Dune House, an in-house restaurant that overlooks the dramatic backdrop of Ayers Rock. A pool is also at your disposal, while the compound also houses a library of historical literatures and other artefacts of Australia's Red Centre.

Rates: from US\$1,100 per person per night

Address: Yulara Drive, Yulara NT 0872, Australia

Phone: +61 1300 134 044

longitude131.com.au

WHITEPOD

Les Cerniers, Switzerland

Overlooking the Swiss Alps, Whitepod is a high-technology eco camp situated at 1,700 metres that houses up to 30 guests at a time. In 2005, it won a Responsible Tourism Award for Innovation. Each pod is individually decorated and equipped with high quality insulation to ensure warmth and coolness throughout the seasons. Spa and dining facilities are located in the main chalet. The resident chef is at guests' disposal to provide two nightly menus. The pod also provides access to a private ski run and forest walking.

Rates: from US\$360 per pod per night

Address: Route Cerniers, 1871 Les Giettes, Switzerland

Phone: +41 24 471 3838

whitepod.com



LONGITUDE 131 MAIN LOBBY



WHITEPOD

GAYANA ECO RESORT

Sabah, Malaysia
Resting on the edge of a coral reef island off the coast of Borneo, Gayana promotes the preservation of its surrounding marine ecology. The on-site research centre propagates the protection of endangered giant clams (the site breeds seven out of eight giant clams of the world) and the restoration of coral reefs. Its 52 overwater villas are built to enhance the sound of the sea while allowing guests to soak in the beauty of Mount Kinabalu. In an attempt to involve guests to the richness of local marine ecology, the resort provides a petting tank with sea creatures in it and invites them to replant corals on the reefs. For underwater enthusiasts, Gayana's PADI-certified dive centre is available.

Rates: from US\$381 per villa per night
Address: Malohom Bay, Gaya Island, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
Phone: +60 88 271098
gayana-eco-resort.com



BUNGA RAYA SPA,
GAYANA ECO RESORT

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE RESPECTIVE HOTELS AND RESORTS



CLIFF EDGE SUNSET CABANA,
ALILA VILLAS ULUWATU

ALILA VILLAS ULUWATU

Bali
Located amidst the savannah landscape of Bukit Peninsula, the luxury eco resort merges sustainability and utmost comfort for travellers. Its terraced roofs provide breathtaking scenery of gardens, reflecting pools and the seemingly endless Indian Ocean. Built using the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles, it is the first resort in Indonesia to receive the highest level of EarthCheck certification for Best Practice Building Planning and Design (BPDS). The 64 pool villas boast an open-plan design that allows guests to soak in natural beauty while staying in the comfort of their rooms. Additionally, guests may attend daily yoga classes, enjoy personalised menu and curated itineraries during their stay.

Rates: from US\$604 per villa per night
Address: Jl Belimbing Sari, Banjar Tambiyak, Desa Pecatu, Bali 80364
Phone: +62 361 848 2166
alilahotels.com

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU RESORT

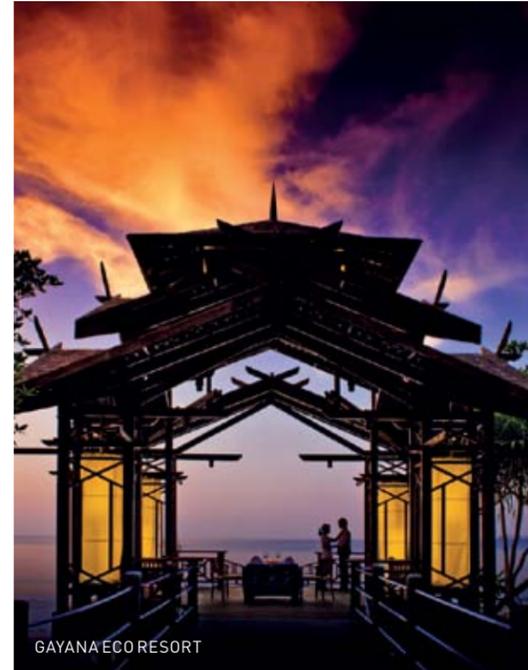
Fiji Islands
Located on the site of a former coconut plantation, the resort is built out of local timbers. The beachfront resort overlooks the tranquil Savusavy Bay, with full-time marine biologists at guests' disposal to enhance underwater experience. The 25 burens (Fijian bungalows) are equipped with rattan furnishings, oversized bathrooms and private decks. All meals and bottled non-alcoholic beverages are included in the accommodation package. To ensure a restful retreat for guests, the resort excludes telephones and televisions from all rooms.

Rates: from US\$840 per buren per night
Address: Jean Michel Cousteau, Fiji o, Fiji Islands
Phone: +679 885 0188
fijiresort.com

EMIRATES WOLGAN VALLEY RESORT & SPA

New South Wales, Australia
The spa resort, set against the scenic Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, is nestled in a private conservation and nature reserve area. Privacy is one of the resort's top priorities, with no-guests policy applied to all its 40 suites. Each suite is equipped with a private pool and terrace. Guests may enjoy a Timeless Spa programme inside the six double treatment rooms, each facilitated with a Japanese-style soaking tub for a complete indulging experience. The fine dining experience in the resort features local and organic products.

Rates: approximately from US\$1,264 per suite per night
Address: 2600, Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley, PO Box 390, Lithgow, NSW 2790, Australia
Phone: +61 26350 1800
wolganvalley.com



THIS PICTURE AND BELOW:
BARDESSONO



BARDESSONO

Yountville, Napa Valley, USA
Located in the wine region of Napa Valley, Bardessono was one of the first three US hotels to earn LEED (Leadership in Energy And Environmental Design) Platinum certification. Built out of salvaged woods and non-toxic materials, the luxury accommodation of 62 rooms provides in-suite spa facilities and butler services. Guests are invited to indulge in relaxing activities that include dining with farm-fresh ingredients at the in-house restaurant, riding on carbon fibre bicycles and gardening in the on-site producing gardens.

Rates: from US\$550 per room per night

Address: 6526 Yount Street, Yountville, California 94599

Phone: +1 707 204 6000

bardessono.com

AMANWANA

Moyo Island, Indonesia
The name of the resort translates as “peaceful forest”, suggests the experience guests are about to embark on when they explore Moyo Island, 15 km off the coast of Sumbawa. The luxurious tents in the vicinity are surrounded by natural habitats of deer, wild boars, sea eagles and monkeys. Each 58-square-metre tent is equipped with picture windows and its canvas ceilings are covered with waterproof layer. Managed by Aman Resorts, the interior features Indonesian artworks, hardwood flooring, a king-size bed and a large bathroom. Guests may choose between ocean and jungle settings to suit their likings. Holiday experiences include snorkelling, diving, turtle watching and board riding.

Rates: from US\$800 per tent per night

Address: PO Box 33, Sumbawa Besar 84301

Phone: +62 371 22233

amanresorts.com/amanwana/home.aspx



AMANWANA



CAMP JABULANI

Kapama Game Reserve, South Africa
For the ultimate stylish safari experience, Camp Jabulani and its six luxurious suites is the answer. Watch lions, leopards, rhinos, buffalos and elephants on the daily safari walks, and wind down at the camp's open air spa, pool, lounge and dining area. Personalised service is also one of the best qualities of the family-owned resort. Guests may experience one-on-one encounter with elephants that were rescued by the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre. Daily elephant ride is on top of the activities list as one of Camp Jabulani's missions is to promote welfare of elephants. P

Rates: from US\$550 per room per night

Address: 6526 Yount Street, Yountville, California 94599

Phone: +1 707 204 6000

bardessono.com