



THE LOWDOWN

FROM A LUXE JET JOURNEY OVER THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO A VERTICAL RESORT IN THE FUTURISTIC CITY OF DUBAI, HERE'S ALL THE INSPO YOU NEED TO GO BIG OR GO HOME WITH YOUR TRAVEL PLANS THIS YEAR AND BEYOND.



GREEN SCENE

Singapore has become the first country in the world to be certified as a sustainable destination. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council awarded the certification based on the island nation's commitment to sustainable management, socio-economic sustainability, cultural sustainability and environmental sustainability.

REBEL AT HEART

Rascal Voyages is sailing into 2023 in style onboard *Rebel*, a traditional Dutch-inspired *phinisi* yacht that accommodates just 10 guests. The yacht, which joins flagship *Rascal* (pictured left), is built around the concept of a floating villa and includes a wine cellar and outdoor cinema. Rascal Voyages is now sailing through Indonesia, with imminent plans to expand to Malaysia and Thailand. rascalvoyages.com

DUBAI BY DESIGN

Crafted by the world's leading designers, architects and artists, Atlantis The Royal (top right) turns the concept of traditional resort architecture on its head by punching 43 storeys into the sky. The vertical resort's focal theme of fire and water extends beyond those views over the Arabian Gulf and Palm Island lagoon to include innovative fire water features, such as *Skyblaze*, an arty fountain with programmable plumes of fire. atlantis.com

ROYAL TREATMENT

Prix Versailles awarded Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan (above right) with a 2022 World Architecture and Design Award for the Hotels category. Melbourne-based designers Mitchell & Eades were behind the decade-long transformation of the 14th-century fort into a luxury hotel that enhances the building's architectural legacy. The resort, once owned by a Rajasthani royal family, is now a stylish Six Senses sanctuary with 48 one-bedroom suites. sixsenses.com

HEAVENLY SEVEN

Abercrombie & Kent has launched a private jet journey that travels to seven countries on the African continent. Highlights include visiting the pyramids with an Egyptologist, searching for mountain gorillas in Rwanda and witnessing wildlife in Tanzania's Serengeti on the 22-day tour. abercrombiekent.com.au



WORDS CARLA GROSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY ABERCROMBIE & KENT (AEROPLANE); AR JUN MENON (SIX SENSES FORT BARWARA); ASHLEY DRODY PHOTOGRAPHY (RASCAL VOYAGES)

ON TOUR

Renaissance under way

Renaissance Tours has launched a new series of art and archaeology-focused tours for 2023. The series is a celebration of a 20-year partnership with the Art Gallery Society of NSW, which helps to curate the tours to far-flung places such as Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Central Asia. renaissancetours.com.au

Walk the walk

Explore the natural and cultural riches of Japan on one of Walk Japan's new 2023 tours. Culture and nature go hand-in-hand in Japan and the Tokaido Trail has much to offer on the leisurely seven-day tour along an ancient highway. Stay in traditional ryokan and hike forest trails while learning more about modern and ancient Japan. walkjapan.com

From culture to conservation

Abercrombie & Kent's collection of Limited Edition Small Group Journeys will take curious minds everywhere from the Sacred Spiny Forest of Madagascar to the coffee plantations of West Africa's Togo and from the palaces of Seoul to the backwaters and beaches in the south of India. abercrombiekent.com.au

ON TREND... Location, location

Set-jetting is the travel trend of 2023 that sees serial Netflix binge watchers insert themselves into the backdrops of their favourite shows. According to Expedia, almost 30 per cent of Australians have booked trips to destinations after seeing them on streaming services. Think *Hawaii* and *Sicily* (thanks to *The White Lotus*), and the city of Derry in Northern Ireland, where an interactive *Derry Girls* trail is in development.

Armchair travel

Don't stress if your passport has expired. Limelight Arts Travel has a roster of in-depth online lectures hosted by experts in fine art, history and the performing arts. The lecture series for 2023 includes topics such as Magnificent Milan and its revival as a centre of art and design. Art travellers can also sign up for actual tours such as Music in Venice. limelight-arts-travel.com.au

Italian interlude

Take a deep dive into Italian food and heritage with Australian-Italian chef Valerio Fantinelli and professional Italy-based tour guide Luca Rocconi on a culinary art tour experience with Italy Tour Co. Highlights include a cooking class in Marlon Brando's former Roman apartment. italytour.com.au



CRUISE NEWS

That's the spirit

Silversea became the first global cruise line to sail from Hong Kong in almost three years onboard ultra-luxury ship *Silver Spirit* (pictured above). Silversea will visit the destination on voyages ranging from 10 to 16 days. silversea.com

A river runs through it

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises (pictured below) has launched a 55-night Rivers of the World cruise that will take in three continents and 10 countries onboard four luxury Super Ships. uniworld.com

Where the wild things are

Hurtigruten has expanded its Galápagos Islands portfolio onboard the upgraded *MS Santa Cruz II*. There is now a seven-day Iconic Wildlife & Sublime Scenery cruise, an 11-day Nine of the Best Isles cruise and seven-day Nature and Wildlife cruise. hurtigruten.com.au

Spot the big five in Africa

Norwegian Cruise Line has expanded its offerings in Africa with five new itineraries. Spot the Big Five on a 12-day Africa: South Africa & Madagascar itinerary from Port Louis. ncl.com

Austral traveller

Set sail for the next big thing in the Pacific with a cruise to the Austral Islands, which includes Raiavavae and Rapa. Aranui Cruises is the only cruise line offering dedicated Austral Island cruises in 2023. aranuicruises.com.au

