

AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Immersive experiences and journeys created for genuine connection.

Compiled by NATASHA DRAGUN



LIGHTS, CAMERAS, DRONES...

As custodians of the land, Central Australia's Anangu people steward the Mala Creation story from Kaltukatjara to Uluru. Sharing this tale with the world, Voyages Indigenous Tourism has partnered with tech company RAMUS to design and produce an artistic platform using drones, light and sound. Welcome to Wintjiri Wiru, hosted at Ayers Rock Resort, using state-of-the-art technology, running twice nightly employing 1,000+ drones to illustrate mighty ancient images in the sky — as well as choreography, visual artistry and narration in Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara languages. *Image credit: Anangu share the Mala story, from Kaltukatjara to Uluru, through a drone, sound and light show designed and produced by RAMUS.*

ayersrockresort.com.au

DIVE DEEP INTO FIJI

Jungle-clad grounds, sugar-sand beaches and 100 private hectares to roam — Fiji's VOMO Island Resort is salve for the soul. And with just 34 residences and villas, it offers a truly intimate and enchanting taste of the South Pacific. Case in point, the new 'Immersive Nature-Driven Experiences', providing the opportunity for you to dip your head below the surface of the sea with a Fijian marine biologist. Polish your diving skills while swimming with turtles, spotted eagle rays and giant trevallies, discovering just what makes this underwater environment so precious — and what the resort is doing to protect it.

vomofiji.com

WALK THIS WAY

Follow in the footsteps of pilgrims along Japan's Kumano Kodo, an ancient route travelled by emperors and monks alike for millennia, through Honshu's Kii Mountains. Bestowed UNESCO World Heritage status — it's one of only two trails in the world afforded this distinction — the route is an important part of Japan's cultural heritage, cared for by those who live and work beside it. Sign up for a self-guided trek with Walk Japan, and your journey includes overnight accommodation, most meals, luggage transfers — plus deep immersion into this spiritual part of the country.

walkjapan.com

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

In 2022, Indigenous-owned tour company Strait Experience made northern Australia's Torres Strait archipelago imminently more accessible via a day charter flight from Cairns. In 2023, the company opens an even deeper dive into the region on its three-day tour to Masig (Yorke) Island, a small-lying coral cay with a population of just 270. Strait Experience co-founder and Masig Island native Fraser Nai is your guide, hosting you on immersive cultural activities, including a beachside dinner around a campfire. Return flights between Horn and Masig Islands are included, with an option for interconnecting flights from Cairns.

straitexperience.com.au

KINGDOM COME

Purveyor of luxury travel, andBeyond is making its foray into Asia this year, opening Punakha River Lodge in Bhutan at the end of 2023. High in the Himalayas, this spiritual retreat — a mix of villas and tented lodges — is your gateway to lofty adventures, whether trekking to monasteries or slowing your heartrate in riverside meditation. Don't miss the chance to join a traditional prayer ceremony held by a Bhutanese monk, to aid personal empowerment, peace, prosperity and good health.

andbeyond.com

NEW HEIGHTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Aotearoa (New Zealand) stuns from every angle. But The Lindis Group ups the country's beauty bounty with its new heli-experience over the Ahuriri Valley. The outing includes a scenic chopper flight to a secret location amid the peaks of the Southern Alps, where your chef for the day will conjure a private alfresco picnic — Central Otago wines, freshly caught crayfish, local cheeses — while you explore end-of-Earth landscapes. This is one adventure that will leave you on a literal high.

thelindisgroup.com