

AFAR

WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU

the
WELLNESS
issue

MEXICO

MAUI

SWITZERLAND

KOREA

SANTORINI

SANTA FE

where to go in 2014

24 UNEXPECTED DESTINATIONS


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A LOCAL'S TALE

\$4.99US/\$5.99CAN



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Making Waves

THE CORAL SEA

From the Solomon Islands, Lindblad Expeditions' Orion cruise ship offers guests two weeks of diving and snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, as well as visits with the tribes of Papua New Guinea. From \$13,960. expeditions.com

THE MEKONG RIVER

This summer, Aqua Expeditions, known for its strikingly modern Amazon cruise ship, will begin plying the Mekong between Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Siem Reap, Cambodia. From \$3,000. aquaexpeditions.com

SEA OF OKHOTSK

Starting in June, the Silver Sea Discoverer will make 15- to 18-day sailings in these little-explored Russian waters, stopping at islands that are home to puffins and sea lions. From \$11,850. silversea.com



UNDISCOVERED AFRICA

Think you know Africa? A trip to **Bale Mountains National Park** in central Ethiopia will make you think again. Divided into five distinct habitats that include grasslands, woodlands, and the fairy-tale-like Haremma forest, the park is home to such rare animals as Ethiopian wolves and black-maned lions. The area is finally more accessible thanks to a new road and the opening of Bale Mountain Lodge, a high-end 15-room hotel with an in-house naturalist and a London-trained chef. From \$220. balemountainlodge.com

Where to Unwind COMO Hotels and Resorts made its US debut in Miami Beach in December. Day visitors can access the eighth-floor spa, which has an outdoor yoga terrace, juice bar, and rooftop hydrotherapy pool with ocean views. From \$499. comohotels.com



No More Roughing It

Once the province of backpackers, these destinations have new lodgings that welcome travelers who have left their hostel days behind.



Burma

End a day of temple tours with poolside cocktails at **Bagan Lodge**. The new hotel is set on the edge of an ancient town and has 85 spacious rooms decorated with colonial-era, rattan furniture. From \$180. bagan-lodge.com

Australia

Camping used to be the only option in Nitmiluk National Park in the Northern Territory. Now, **Cicada Lodge**, which is jointly owned by the Jawoyn people, offers Bulgari amenities and a restaurant that uses native ingredients. From \$306. cicadalodge.com.au

The Galápagos

An alternative to the Galápagos Islands' cruise ships, the 14-room **Pikaia Lodge** is located on a giant tortoise reserve on Santa Cruz island. Guests can visit other islands via the hotel's private yacht. From \$3,200 for four days. pikaialodgegalapagos.com