

Hotels by Design

WOW

Perched in remote, spectacular locations, the latest clutch of luxury cabins and pods take Emma Love from the wilds of New Zealand to elephant watching in the lush jungle of northern Thailand

THE LINDIS Ahuriri Valley, New Zealand

South Island vistas don't come more expansive than from the three new cabins at The Lindis superlodge in the pristine Ahuriri Valley. Designed by New Zealand architect Noel Martin, each compact, rectangular structure has mirrored-glass walls on three sides, which reflect the landscape, blurring the lines of the structure so it blends in with its surroundings. Nudged up against the hillside, the main building is a short stroll away for supper and a game of billiards. When the lure of the extraordinary scenery becomes too great, head back to your private outdoor bathtub for a soak under the stars.

*Pods from £1,022 a night for a double (thelindis.com). For tailor-made holidays in New Zealand, go to *Turquoise Holidays* (020 7147 7087; turquoiseholidays.co.uk)*

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ANANTARA GOLDEN
TRIANGLE ELEPHANT
CAMP AND RESORT
near Chiang Rai, Thailand

Getting up close to elephants is one of the highlights of a stay at this renowned resort in northern Thailand, so it makes sense that the latest back-to-nature experience offered to guests – spending the night in one of two Jungle Bubbles – is an original take on exactly that. Custom-designed, the transparent, high-tech pods sit on a raised wooden deck, surrounded by lush forest, on the banks of the Ruak River. Each one comes with a dinner basket, a mini bar – and a front-row seat to watch the gentle giants as they wander by.

Jungle Bubble experience from £445 a night for two people (goldentriangle.anantara.com). For tailor-made holidays in Thailand, go to Elegant Resorts (01244 757477; elegantresorts.co.uk)



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MANSHAUSEN ISLAND
Steigen, Norway

A former fishing trading post in the Grøtøya Strait, this private 55-acre island has seven two-bedroom cabins dotted along its old stone jetty and cantilevered off the rocky northern shore. All are designed by Manshausen's owner, the polar explorer Børge Ousland, and architect Snorre Stinessen. Made from wood or tin, each has a simple pine interior with a small but sufficient kitchen and floor-to-ceiling windows that look out to sea. Exhilarating days can be spent discovering tiny sandy coves and the Vestfjorden by kayak, rock climbing the red granite cliffs of neighbouring Nordskot and fishing for migrating cod.

From £160 per person, B&B (manshausen.no). For tailor-made holidays in Norway, go to Black Tomato (020 7426 9888; blacktomato.com)

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KACHI LODGE

Uyuni Salt Flats, Bolivia

Standing at an altitude of 3,660 metres on the Uyuni Salt Flats, at the foot of Tunupa Volcano, the six dome-shaped, UV-treated vinyl suites at Kachi Lodge have a surreal, otherworldly backdrop. Interiors by Swiss decorator duo Marina Cardis and Marine Luginbuehl channel boho-chic, with alpaca-wool blankets, reclaimed cactus-wood lamps, rattan chairs and paintings by Andean artist Gastón Ugalde. The set dinner menu is overseen by Juan Pablo Gumiel, head chef of Proyecto Nativa in Sucre, while the excursions – whether to see mummified remains in Coquesa or mountain biking across the flats – are unmissable. *From \$2,280 per person based on two sharing for two nights, full board, including drinks, excursions and transfers from Uyuni airport (kachilodge.com).* For tailor-made holidays in Bolivia, go to Abercrombie & Kent (01242 386500; abercrombiekent.co.uk)



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SUBLIME COMPORTA

Comporta, Portugal

The nine new bio-pool suites at Sublime Comporta pay tribute to the traditional ramshackle wooden jetties and huts on stilts of the neighbouring fishing village of Carrasqueira. There is nothing ramshackle about these rustic-chic, standalone cabins, however, which jut out over a stunning pool where fresh water is treated naturally through the use of aquatic plants rather than chemicals. Each interior is different, drawing on a subtle colour palette and a respect for local materials and crafts, in particular straw, wood, thatch and basketware. Varnished stone floors lead out to simple sun decks from which guests can plunge straight into the inviting pool □ *From €300 per room, B&B (sublimecomporta.pt).* For tailor-made holidays in Portugal, go to Scott Dunn (020 3811 3487; scottdunn.com)

