

# CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

Middle East 2018

“ Unforgettable experiences that make for picture perfect memories.”



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## INSTA-ROMANCE

### DINE UNDER THE STARS IN RAJASTHAN

Stay in a Royal Tented Suite at **SUJAN The Serai** (doubles from AED 2,490; 0091-11-4617 2700, [sujanluxury.com](http://sujanluxury.com)), a 100-acre private desert estate near Jaisalmer. The suite has its own heated pool, spa, dining and lounge tents. A romantic candlelit dinner can be arranged in the desert under the starlit sky, with live Rajasthani folk music.

**When to go** October-March

### SWIM IN A SECRET WATERFALL IN INDONESIA

A 90-minute hike with **Nihi Sumba** (doubles from AED 2,920; 0062-3-6175 7149, [nihi.com](http://nihi.com)) takes you to the Blue Waterfall on Sumba Island. Jump off a 30m cliff into crystal-clear water. The best part? Your personal butler will be at your beck and call, right from handing you a towel to setting up a romantic picnic with the falls as your backdrop.

**When to go** March-June

### ENTER THE MAGMA CHAMBER OF A VOLCANO IN ICELAND

Take a tour inside the magma chamber of the Thrihnukagigur volcano with **Inside the Volcano** (from AED 1,350 per person; 0035-4519 5609, [insidethevolcano.com](http://insidethevolcano.com)). A one-hour hike through the Blue Mountains Country Park (45 minutes from Reykjavik), or a 20-minute helicopter ride gets you to the base of the volcano and a cable lift will take you down into it so you can explore the chamber and go nuts Instagramming the array of hues that greet you.

**When to go** April-September

### GLAMP IN NAMIBIA

Namibia's Skeleton Coast, so named for the number of shipwrecks that line the shore, features a multitude of landscapes – sand dunes, riverbeds and the Atlantic Ocean. Wildlife here includes elephants, hyenas, jackals and desert lions. Stay at **Hoonib Skeleton Coast Camp** (doubles from AED 3,800; 0027-1-1257 5000, [wilderness-safaris.com](http://wilderness-safaris.com)), eight minimalist albeit luxurious tents with floor-to-ceiling windows and shaded outdoor decks. Expect no Wi-Fi or phone network here, as you are truly off the grid.

**When to go** June-October

### CRUISE IN ALASKA

The **Celebrity Solstice** (from AED 3,670 per person for a seven-day cruise; 001-888-751 7804, [celebritycruises.com](http://celebritycruises.com)) is one of the more luxurious Alaskan cruise experiences. Expect craft cocktails, live barbecues and an incredible spa. Excursions



"AFTER A LONG TREK IN THE JUNGLE SEARCHING FOR GORILLAS, RECOVER IN A CHARMING COTTAGE IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE VIRUNGAS"

include kayaking and fishing with the in-house naturalist; see calving glaciers, whales, seals, sea lions and penguins.

**When to go** July-August

### ROAD TRIP THROUGH VINEYARDS IN BAROSSA VALLEY

The Barossa Scenic Heritage Drive in Australia is a gorgeous 57km journey. Stop along the way at any of the over 70 vineyards to try the variety of offerings (or just to Instagram them if you're the one in the driver's seat). Stay at **The Louise** (doubles from AED 1,690; 0061-8856-2 2722, [thelouise.com.au](http://thelouise.com.au)), set in the heart of the grape region. At the **Seppeltsfield Estate** (0061-8856-8 6200, [seppeltsfield.com.au](http://seppeltsfield.com.au)), you can taste grape from the barrel of your birth year, while at **Penfolds** (0061-8856-8 8408, [penfolds.com](http://penfolds.com)) you can make your own grape blend at the laboratory and take the bottle home with you.

**When to go** April-May

### POINT AND SHOOT IN BHUTAN

Bhutan is one of the most picturesque countries in the world, from the landing in Paro between snow-covered peaks to monasteries set on steep cliffs. Stay at **Amankara** (doubles from AED 5,690; 0097-5233 1333, [aman.com](http://aman.com)), which has five beautiful lodges across the country, while your guide (price on request; [photoworkshopadventures.com](http://photoworkshopadventures.com)) takes you to spots off the beaten path.

**When to go** March-April and September-October

### PLAY INDIANA JONES IN PETRA

The **Ultimate Petra Experience** (from AED 16,900 per person; 0044-20-7426 9888, [blacktomato.com](http://blacktomato.com)) is a four-day tour of Jordan's ancient rock city. Your adventure will include experiences such as a private barbecue surrounded by the ruins of Little Petra and a trek to the Ad Deir Monastery. Also on the →