

# ELLE

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*starring*

# ROSIE

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8 INNOVATIONS  
YOU NEED TO KNOW

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BY EMMA FORREST

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AT PIECES  
TO BUY NOW**

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**MY 9 STYLE  
TRICKS THAT  
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EVERYONE BY  
ALEXA CHUNG**

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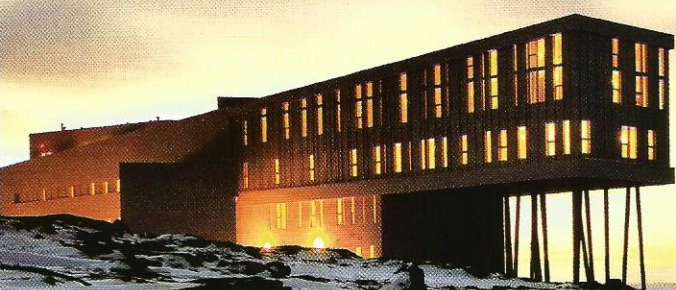


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# HOW TO holiday in 2015

*New year, new travel  
ideas. Book it now*

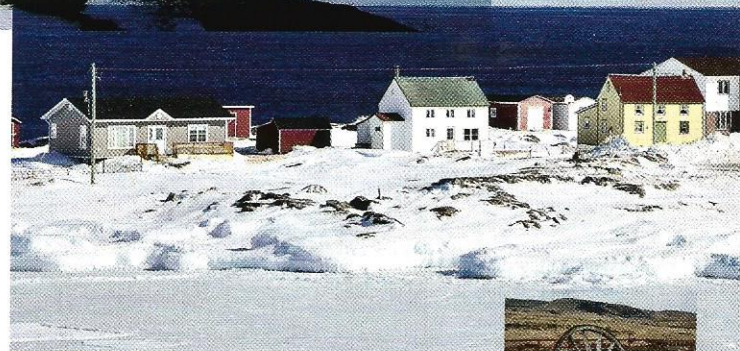


Atlantic views from  
Fogo Island. Left:  
Fogo Island Inn,  
Canada. Top: Hótel  
Búdir, Iceland

## What? **UNPLUGGED TRAVEL**

**Why?** With stress levels soaring, remote hotels are becoming ever more prized for their faraway locations and lack of connectivity with the rest of the world. Stay next to a lava field overlooking a glacier at Iceland's Hotel Búdir, Snaefellsnes, or in a suite with a view of the frozen Atlantic through floor-to-ceiling windows at Fogo Island Inn, Newfoundland, Canada. Or check into one of Chile's most far-flung hotels, Estancia Cerro Guido, in the windswept borderlands of the famed Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia. Just getting to these remote spots is part of the appeal, whether you find yourself driving over the frozen Baltic sea to a secret island off the coast of Estonia, or hopping on a bush plane to disappear into the vast wilderness of Alaska... What are you waiting for?

**How?** Hotel Búdir has doubles from £110, B&B; hotelbudir.is. Iceland Air (icelandair.co.uk) offers return flights from London Gatwick to Reykjavik from around £190. Fogo Island Inn has



doubles from £551, full board; fgoisland inn.ca. Return flights from London Heathrow to St John's start at around £576 return with Air Canada (aircanada.com). Estancia Cerro Guido has doubles from £130, B&B; cerroguido.cl. LAN Airlines (lan.com) flies from London Gatwick to Santiago from around £969. For more wild and wonderful properties, check out *Remote Places To Stay* by Debbie Pappyn and David De Vleeschauwer (Lannoo).



The Patagonian  
landscape of  
Estancia Cerro Guido

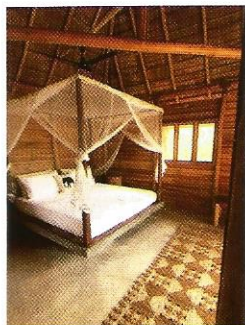




## Where? SRI LANKA

**Why?** Ten years after the devastating Boxing Day tsunami, Sri Lanka is on the up. The people behind the country's prettiest boutique bungalows, Ceylon Tea Trails ([teatrails.com](http://teatrails.com)), have launched a gorgeous oceanfront resort half an hour from Galle called Cape Weligama, and are planning a 24-suite tented camp in the Yala National Park in November. Plus, this summer sees the opening of Tri: a beautifully designed, sustainable eco lodge on Lake Koggala, 20km south-east of Galle. It will have eight suites, three with private pools, hidden away in the landscape, and two more high up on the top deck of the central water tower. The east of the country has virtually undiscovered national parks and jungles, and its first eco resort, Gal Oya Lodge, opened last summer in the heart of Gal Oya National Park. Watch elephants swim in the Bolgoda Lake - Sri Lanka's largest - or trek in the remote jungle.

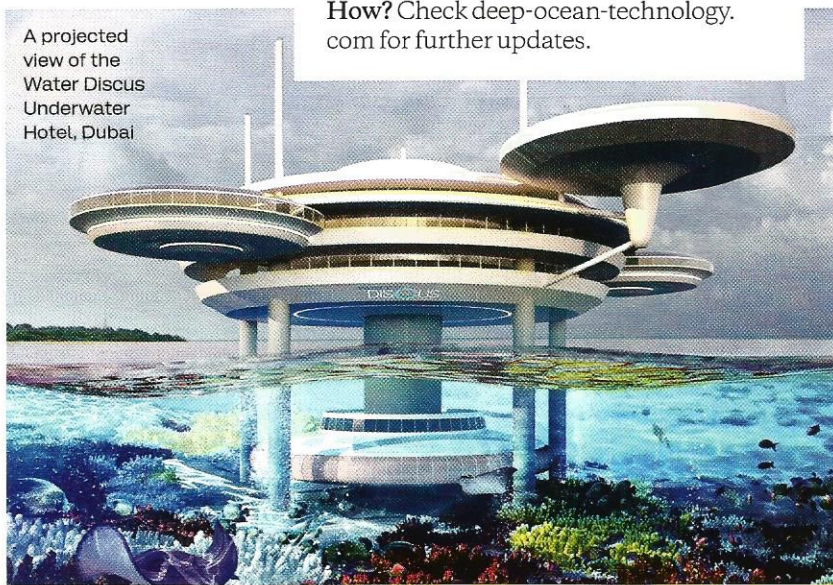
**How?** Seven nights at Cape Weligama, half-board, including selected wines, return flights from London Heathrow to Colombo and transfers, costs £2,925pp; [blacktomato.com](http://blacktomato.com). Rates for Tri ([trilanka.com](http://trilanka.com)) are yet to be confirmed. Gal Oya Lodge has doubles from around £250, half-board; [galoyalodge.com](http://galoyalodge.com).



Clockwise, from far left: Cape Weligama; Gal Oya Lodge; bathing elephants in Bolgoda Lake; the Sri Lankan coastline



A projected view of the Water Discus Underwater Hotel, Dubai



## What? GOING LOCAL

**Why?** All things 'local' continue to be a big deal: local produce, locavore restaurants (using exclusively local ingredients), living like a local (staying in real homes via [airbnb.co.uk](http://airbnb.co.uk), [wimdu.co.uk](http://wimdu.co.uk), [couchsurfing.org](http://couchsurfing.org) and [onelinestay.com](http://onelinestay.com)), dining with locals ([colunching.com](http://colunching.com),

[eatwith.com](http://eatwith.com), [bookalokal.com](http://bookalokal.com)). Be Mate ([bemate.com](http://bemate.com)) takes the Airbnb concept one step further. With 2,500 apartments to rent, the difference is that by hooking up with local hotels, Be Mate offers optional hotel services like a 24-hour concierge or room-key delivery.

Currently operating in 10 cities, it aims to expand to 150 in 2015. **How?** Prices at [airbnb.co.uk](http://airbnb.co.uk), [onfinestay.com](http://onfinestay.com) and [wimdu.co.uk](http://wimdu.co.uk) start at around £35 a night, room only; [bemate.com](http://bemate.com) has prices from around £90, room only; free stays are available with [couchsurfing.org](http://couchsurfing.org).

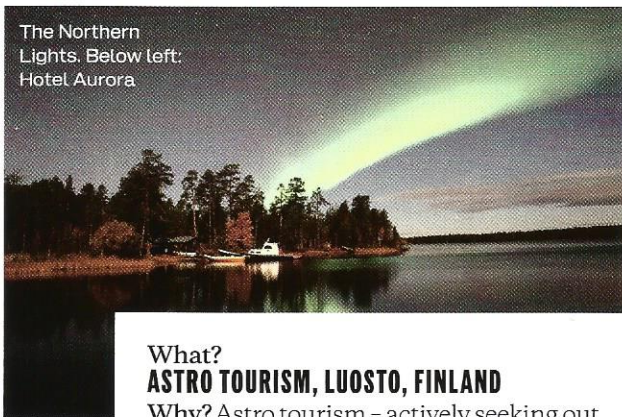
## What? UNDERWATER HOTELS

**Why?** Fancy sleeping with the fishes (in a good way)? We've already seen underwater rooms at Dubai's Atlantis Hotel ([atlantisthepalm.com](http://atlantisthepalm.com)), underwater hotels like the one-room Utter Inn, Lake Mälaren, Sweden ([gounusual.com/utterinn](http://gounusual.com/utterinn)), and the three-room Jules' Undersea Lodge off Key Largo, Florida ([jul.com](http://jul.com)), but as land becomes more and more pricey, forward-thinking hoteliers are moving towards building entire resorts under the waves. The Water Discus Underwater Hotel in Dubai, due to open later this year, is the pioneer and will feature a disc-like floor 10m below sea level, with 21 suites with aquarium-style windows. The hotel will have a spa, garden and pool, and guests will be able to explore their surroundings in scuba gear. Feeling claustrophobic? Don't worry, for a constant change of scene, the hotel will be able to revolve and, in emergencies, can rise to the surface.

**How?** Check deep-ocean-technology.com for further updates.



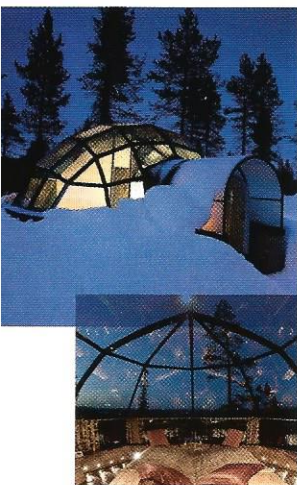
The Northern  
Lights. Below left:  
Hotel Aurora



### What? **ASTRO TOURISM, LUOSTO, FINLAND**

**Why?** Astro tourism – actively seeking out stellar shows – is the Next Big Thing, with this winter predicted to be the best chance of seeing the Northern Lights until 2025. The tiny village of Luosto is a viewing hotspot, with seven downhill slopes tucked away in the fells of Finnish Lapland. It is also home to the Hotel Aurora, a collection of stylish igloo-esque rooms that, from February, will also offer 10 new luxury glass suites. With unrivalled views through the walls and roof, they are designed to make you feel part of the polar landscape. Just lie back and wait for the Northern Lights to perform.

**How?** The Glass Arctic View Rooms start at a £212pp supplement as part of The Aurora Zone's holidays to Luosto. Trips start at £1,399pp, including return flights from London Heathrow to Kittila, transfers, four nights' half-board accommodation, a night in a Glass Arctic View Room, activities (including an aurora hunt via snowmobile-pulled sled and dinner in a traditional wooden kota), guides and cold-weather clothing. Departures available until April 2015; 01670 785 012; theaurorazone.com.

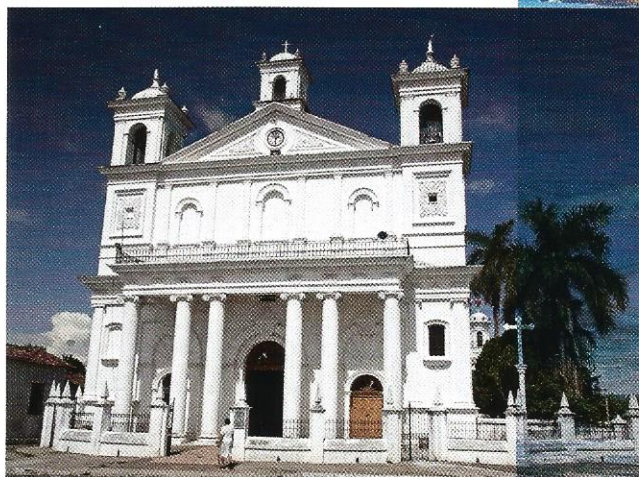


### What? **SOCIAL MEDIA STAYS**

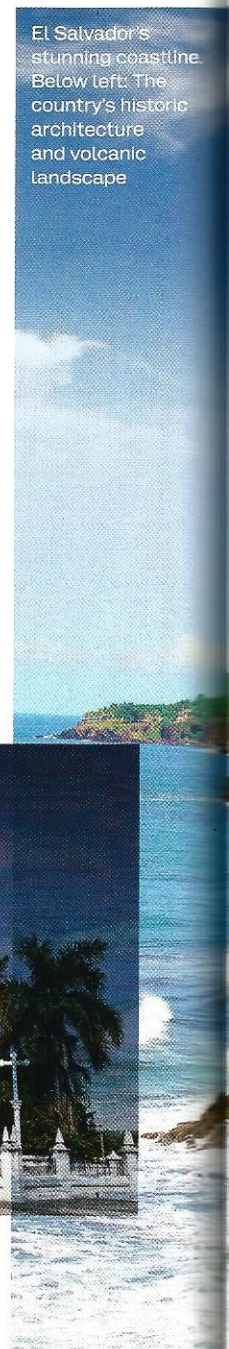
**Why?** With @Stayful's #tweetstay paving the way for social-media booking (tweet your dates and destination and they find you the cheapest room), Beautiful Destinations is now taking the web by storm. One of the largest travel accounts on Instagram – with 2.6 million followers and counting – it posts the most photogenic places, hotels and food from around the world, all from shots submitted

by its followers. What's more, Beautiful Destinations has a booking function in the pipeline (planned for early 2015); you'll be able to 'like' a photo, see how to get there and where to stay – and off you go.

**How?** Visit stayful.com/tweetstay for more information; and follow @beautifuldestinations on Instagram for booking updates.



El Salvador's  
stunning coastline.  
Below left: The  
country's historic  
architecture  
and volcanic  
landscape

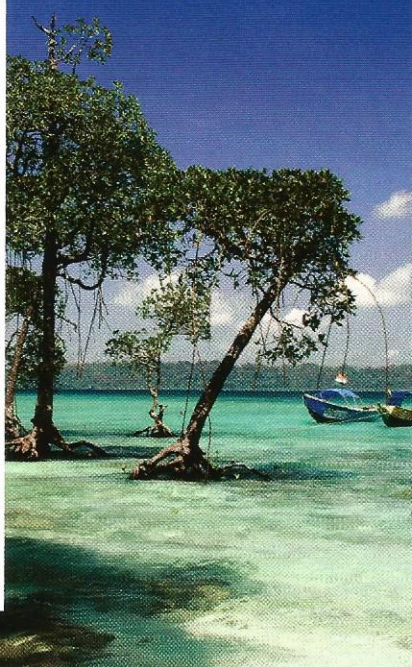


The idyllic  
Havelock Island

### Where? **ANDAMAN ISLANDS**

**Why?** This gorgeous string of islands east of India has always been under the radar, despite their white sand, clear sea and Crusoe-esque feel, as there was nowhere really 'wow' to stay. Enter Jalakara on Havelock Island, the boho-luxe baby of Londoner Mark Hill (a trained chef) and his shoe designer wife Atalanta Weller. Opened at the end of 2014, it has seven suites (one a honeymoon villa), a 16m infinity pool, yoga and cookery classes, while the perfect Man Friday beach is a 10-minute stroll away.

**How?** Ampersand Travel offers a seven-night stay at Jalakara from £1,400pp, B&B, including flights and transfers; ampersandtravel.com.



### Where? **ESSEX**

**Why?** Living Architecture, which promotes specially commissioned, top-architect-designed holiday rentals, has a fabulous one coming up from Essex artist Grayson Perry. Near Wrabness, A House For Essex will be an artwork in itself, and will also be used as a showcase for Perry's work – much of it inspired by his home county.

**How?** Price on application. Other projects average around £23pp per night, based on 8-10 sharing; living-architecture.co.uk.



**Where?**  
**EL SALVADOR**

**Why?** Bordering (and overshadowed by, in the tourism stakes) Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, this dynamic South American country is due to have a bit of moment in 2015. It shares many of the attributes as nearby (and super-popular) Costa Rica - namely volcanoes, superb surfing beaches and spectacular scenery - plus amazing wildlife, rich colonial history, indigenous cultures and ancient Mayan ruins. Sidestep the hectic capital of San Salvador in favour of hiking in the rainforest, wildlife-spotting in national parks, cafe-hopping in Suchitoto and road-tripping along the volcano route.

**How?** Mercator Travel offers tailor-made trips to El Salvador from around £1,500 a week; 01932 424 252; mercatortravel.co.uk.

**What?****HYPER-HIGH TECH**

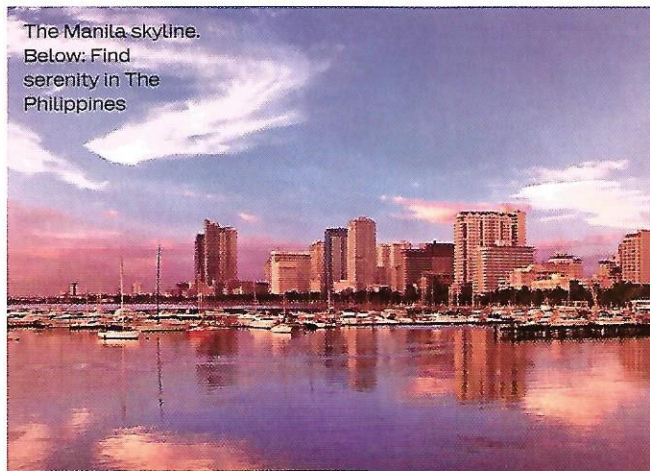
**Why?** Due for a phone upgrade? Grab yourself the fanciest kind on offer, as over the next 10 years, you'll be able to demand incredible levels of holiday customisation through your mobile, from the air temperature in your hotel room to the strength of the vitamin C-infused water in your rainhead shower. Plus, according to travel site Skyscanner, wearable electronics will be a massive deal: smart watch apps will double

as room keys and let you download boarding passes - so get your name down for the Apple Watch, out this year. Other predictions include hotel walls that double as interactive film screens and Skype monitors, and electronic pillows that provide massages and wake-up calls. Forget your toothbrush? Rustle one up on your in-room 3D printer. Welcome to the future.

**How?** Watch this space...

The Manila skyline.

Below: Find serenity in The Philippines

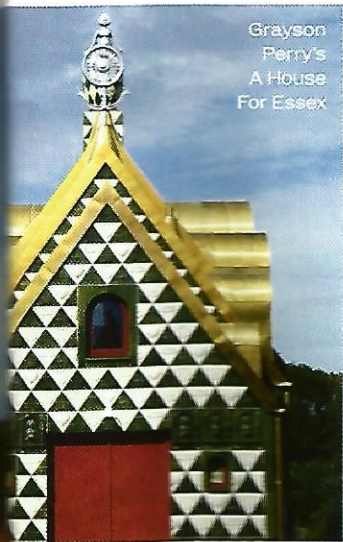
**Where?**  
**THE PHILIPPINES**

**Why?** This year has been designated Visit The Philippines Year - cue street parties, festivals and more direct flights planned by Philippine Airlines from Europe, USA and Australia. These 7,000-plus islands hold some of the world's most remote and beautiful beaches, while the country's gateway, Manila, has had an injection of high-end hotels in recent years. Big-name brands have opened properties - most recently Raffles (with an exact replica of the Long Bar at the original Raffles hotel in Singapore) and Fairmont - plus a Mandarin Oriental is planned for 2020. Missoni chose the city as home for its first-ever serviced apartments, while award-winning Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas has just taken his first commission there. One to watch - it may soon rival Hong Kong and Singapore.

**How?** Philippine Airlines flies from London Heathrow to Manila from around £650 return; philippineairlines.com. ●



Grayson Perry's A House For Essex

**What?**  
**EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL**

**Why?** 'Experiential' is the number-one buzzword right now: holidays are no longer just about where you go, but what you do when you get there. Whether it's going on safari, watching gorillas in the wild or even travelling into space (almost), it's the experience we're after, rather than visiting a particular country or staying in a hotspot hotel. According to Serge Dive, co-founder of influential travel trade show Pure Life

Experiences: 'People now think about travel with a "bucket list" mindset. Luxury alone is not enough - we want to feel that we are changed by the trip.'

**How?** Think trekking in Bhutan (greavesindia.co.uk), seeing Northern Lights (see above left), or going on a walking safari in Kenya (chelipecock.com). If you can dream it, you can do it.