

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Bali Magic

TRAVELER

Nobody Knows This World Better
JUNE/JULY 2013

World's Best LODGES

25

Spots to
Sleep in
the Wild
(roughing it
not required)

PLUS: SPAIN'S GALICIA | MIDWEST PIZZA FARMS
BALTIMORE | SAN DIEGO | MOUNT RUSHMORE

25 Wild



At Bushmans Kloof, in South Africa, a boma along the Boontjies River is a popular spot for pre-dinner cocktails.

Nights



BECOME ONE WITH NATURE
(WITHOUT THE SLEEPING BAG AND COLD
SHOWERS) AT THESE TOP ECOLOGES

By **COSTAS CHRIST**

From a few early outposts sporting canvas walls and raised wooden walkways, ecolodges now span the globe and all manner of styles. Remote off-the-grid mountain bungalows offer the adventurer a true back-to-the-land encounter, while oceanfront villas of recycled wood make use of organic cotton sheets and the latest green technologies for the sybarite. One day there may be no need to put “eco” in front of “lodges”—helping to protect threatened habitats, support cultural heritage, and improve local livelihoods will be expected of any travelers’ rest, along with a room with a view and a comfortable bed. Until then, these 25 retreats set themselves apart by delivering authenticity and sustainability in nature’s most spectacular settings.



- 1 Cree Village Eco Lodge, Canada 2 Hacienda Santa Rosa, Mexico
 3 Laguna Lodge, Guatemala 4 Pacuare Lodge, Costa Rica 5 Turtle Inn, Belize
 6 Jicaró Island Ecolodge, Nicaragua 7 Inkatererra Reserva Amazónica, Peru
 8 Cristalino Jungle Lodge, Brazil 9 Eco-Frontiers Ranch, Poland 10 Millia Mountain Retreat, Greece
 11 Feynan Ecolodge, Jordan 12 Damaraland Camp, Namibia 13 Duma Tau, Botswana
 14 Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat, South Africa 15 Bulungula Lodge, South Africa
 16 Chumbe Island Coral Park, Zanzibar 17 Eagle View Camp, Kenya
 18 Orange County, Kabini, India 19 Jetwing Vil Uyana, Sri Lanka 20 Great Ocean Ecolodge, Australia
 21 Resurgence, New Zealand 22 Six Senses Con Dao, Vietnam 23 Misool Eco Resort, Indonesia 24 Yangshuo Mountain Retreat, China
 25 Three Camel Lodge, Mongolia



GUATEMALA Laguna Lodge

Tucked along the shore of Lake Atitlán, with its misty volcanoes and Maya villages, Laguna’s six suites artfully blend adobe bricks, river stone, and brightly embroidered huipils and hand-loomed blankets. The dining tilts organic, fresh, and meat free, and the aromatic coffee comes from

the lodge’s own gardens and is roasted on-site. A hundred-acre nature reserve established by the lodge reaches from the shore up 1,305 feet. Old Maya trails wind through some of the last remaining primary tropical dry forest around the lake, home to belted flycatchers and other endemic birds. Adrenaline buffs can jump from high rock faces to the deep water. *6 rooms; from*



\$240, including breakfast and boat transportation to and from Panajachel. www.laguna lodgeatitlan.com

Park, Three Camel's 50 *gers* (yurts) appear more like a herders' village than a lodge. "Our approach has always been to embrace the culture," says owner Jaisa Urubshurow. "Local artisans crafted the roof of the main building without using a single nail, according to the tenets of Mongolian Buddhist architecture." The lodge funds a range of conservation efforts, including

replanting more than 6,000 native trees and shrubs to help prevent desertification. Hiking, exploring paleontology sites, and bird-watching fill the days; later the chef's open kitchen offers cozy meals such as steamed meat dumplings while the sun gives way to night skies brimming with stars. 50 rooms; from \$350, including full board. www.threecamellodge.com

Activities at Guatemala's Laguna Lodge range from kayaking Lake Atitlán to hiking San Pedro Volcano.

MONGOLIA

Three Camel Lodge

At the edge of a volcanic outcrop providing bright morning vistas across Gobi Gurvansaikhan National