



SPANISH GAINS

Temperatures on Spain's east coast linger in the mid-twenties during October. Explore an authentic way

of life at Partida de la Mar, a new agricultural homestay in the rural heartlands outside Valencia. Visit the market before heading to your terrace to create a local version of paella with the owner. A wine tasting amid the orange groves follows. 7 nights from £630pp. rusticescapes.com

A NATURAL HIGH

The scenery of New Zealand's South Island is in its verdant pomp right now and Kamana Lakehouse, Queenstown's highest hotel, makes an excellent base for exploring. Take the Twin Falls Waterfall trail – the restaurant at the top of Otehiwai Mount John is a just reward for your efforts. And finish with a helicopter ride over Mount Cook's peak. 10 nights from £2,100pp. newzealand-indepth.co.uk



**WHERE TO GO NOW:
BALLESTAS ISLANDS, PERU**

While Peru may be better known for its vibrant cities and historic sights, dig deeper and you'll find an island cluster basking in glory this month. Four hours west of Lima, the craggy Ballestas Islands make for an exciting day trip as temperatures climb to a comfortable 23C with zero rainfall in October. Accessed by boat, they're such a haven for wildlife they've been dubbed 'the Peruvian Galápagos'. Go early, when the water is calm and wildlife is at its most animated, to spot pelicans, sea lions and fur seals – seen on shore only at this time of year. 2-hour trip, £21pp. emotiontourperu.com



Travel *news*

IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD

Visit our pick of the 29 new sites recently given the accolade of Unesco World Heritage status

JAIPUR, INDIA

Joining a host of other World Heritage Cities on the subcontinent, Jaipur is a heady mix of architectural beauty and bustle. Founded in 1727, it was built according to a grid system that formed large public squares called *chaupars* – now the beating heart of the city.

BUDJ BIM, AUSTRALIA

The first Aboriginal site to be awarded Unesco status, Budj Bim, baking in a hot corner of Victoria, has an aquaculture network more than 6,500 years old. These unique waterways were invented and developed by the Gunditjmarra people as breeding grounds for eels.

PARATY & ILHA GRANDE, BRAZIL

A key stop on the Gold Route during the 17th century, the pretty shores of Paraty are made up of perfectly preserved colonial streets and iconic churches. Combine with a trip to the biodiverse beaches of Ilha Grande. This is the first joint award to a natural and cultural site.





GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

This year astrotourism has skyrocketed thanks to a calendar filled with blood moons, solar eclipses and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo landing. There are plenty of ways to experience it for yourself. Head to **Ólafsfjörður, Iceland** – one of the best places to chase the Northern Lights – and hunker down in the spa at Deplar Farm with its floor-to-ceiling views, before husky sledging over the untouched mountain terrain (doubles from £1,218pp). Stargaze under pitch-black skies in **Sossusvlei, Namibia** on a moonlit safari from your Wolwedans Dune Camp base – home to Africa’s only Dark Sky Reserve (12 nights from £6,250pp). Impossibly clear skies meet lunar landscapes in the **Atacama Desert**, Chile. Scope out galaxies and constellations at the Ahlarkapin Observatory (2-hour tour, £17.50pp). elevenexperience.com ampersandtravel.com alarkapin.cl

COME FLY WITH ME

Seeking a bit of last-minute sunshine this autumn? Then you will appreciate the new short-haul easyJet flights setting off twice weekly from regional airports. From 30 October, chase the sun from Belfast to **Marrakech, Morocco**, Liverpool to **Tenerife, Spain**, or from Bristol or Manchester to **Hurgada, Egypt**. For those far-flung forays, Virgin Atlantic will launch daily flights from London Heathrow to **Mumbai, India** on 27 October. And if you yearn for a snow-filled escape, Norwegian Air will be flying twice a week from Manchester to **Bergen, Norway** from 28 October.

BOOK AHEAD

Head to the Frankfurt Book Fair (16-20 October) to catch special cookery demos and panels at the Gourmet Gallery. Book-end it with dinner at Weinsinn’s and a stay at design-led Roomers. buchmesse.de weinsinn-frankfurt.de roomers-hotels.com



BRING THE FAMILY

If you’re hunting for a thrilling half-term holiday, Rickshaw Travel’s new child-friendly itineraries are designed for the whole gang. Take to Borneo’s treetops to spot orangutans and sail down the mighty Santubong before cycling through Kuching’s energetic streets. 7 nights from £815pp. rickshawtravel.co.uk



Nairobi

in six stops

This vibrant capital is more than a jump-off for safaris – it boasts fine food and culture aplenty, too says Christi-Anna Lawson

1 Once a shanty town, Nairobi is now one of Africa’s fastest growing cities. Kenya’s bustling capital mixes its native Maasai heritage with European culinary flair and a contemporary art scene. Add in the national park teeming with the Big Five tickling its outskirts, and you’ve got a brilliant city break.

2 Get up close and personal with the endangered Rothschild’s giraffes at the Giraffe Centre. Twin with a visit to the Bomas of Kenya – a traditional collection of miniature villages from numerous local tribes. Don’t miss the exhilarating Bomas Harambee Dancers show. giraffecentre.org bomasofkenya.co.ke

3 A ten-minute drive from the city centre, Nairobi National Museum offers in-depth insight into Kenyan heritage. A life-sized fibre glass elephant greets you upon entry, an emblem protesting against ivory poaching. Amble across to the museum’s Botanic Garden, which showcases the country’s rich flora and fauna. And stop by the Snake Park, if you dare.

4 The suburbs of Karen are garnering attention as one of Nairobi’s emerging food hubs – head to the Dari Restaurant for fried tilapia fish smothered in lemon-butter sauce. With strong eco-credentials, an on-site organic garden and revolving art exhibitions, The Talisman has a cult following. Order the fiery *nyati* wings. darirestaurant.com thetalismanrestaurant.com

5 Support tribal communities by buying souvenirs from the Maasai Market. This open-air bazaar invites locals and visitors alike to buy exquisite handmade curios such as *shukas* (Maasai blankets), beaded sandals, vivid artworks and intricate jewellery.

6 Bed down at Giraffe Manor, a 12-room, 1930s-style bolthole. Opt for the Betty Suite, where you can hand-feed the resident giraffes from your balcony. Hankering for the hum of the city? Check into the central Tribe Hotel, which is bedecked in local tribal art. thesafaricollection.com tribe-hotel.com