

**GREAT  
FAMILY  
GETAWAYS**

 **NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC**

# TRAVELER

## Best Summer Ever

**25 DREAM TRIPS  
TO ITALY & BEYOND**

**American  
Wanderlust!**

**San Francisco's Summer of Love**

**BEST BARBECUE JOINTS**

**Great Lakes Road Trip**

**NATIONAL PARK ADVENTURE**



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

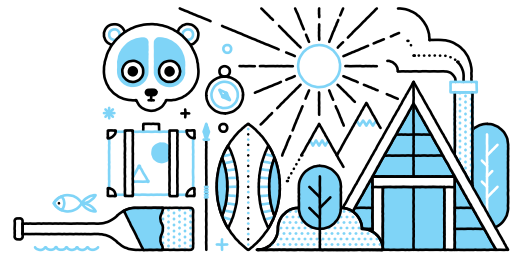
June/July 2017

BEST SUMMER EVER | ITALY | SAN FRANCISCO | NORTH DAKOTA | HIKING THE ALPS | FAMILY ADVENTURES



# BEST LIST

## 21 GREAT ECO-ESCAPES



► Sustainable, spectacular, and engaged with local communities, these lodges are tucked into some of the planet's wildest places



From a handful of rustic lodges committed to conservation back in the early 1990s, sustainable tourism is now transforming the global travel industry, and in the process helping to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, support environmentally friendly practices, and deliver economic and social benefits to local people.

Among the new generation of lodges is **The Brando**, in French Polynesia. The late actor Marlon Brando's eco-dream brought to life, the private island is run on 100 percent renewable energy sources, including solar power and coconut oil. Guests can join naturalist guides to explore Tetiaroa atoll, once the sacred retreat of Tahitian royalty, with giant coconut crabs and temples. Read on for 20 more of our favorite eco-lodges. —Costas Christ



Coconut oil helps power The Brando, in French Polynesia.



# BEST LIST

## 21 GREAT ECO-ESCAPES

### Classic Comfort

#### ECOTOURISM LEGENDS

Nature reigns at **Jetwing Vil Uyana** in Sri Lanka's famed Cultural Triangle, home to the gray slender loris, among the world's tiniest primates. Costa Rica's **Lapa Rios** has long been a conservation icon. Deep in Bolivia's Madidi National Park, indigenous guides welcome intrepid travelers to **Chalalan Ecolodge**, an ideal base camp for jungle exploration. Maasai warriors are your hosts at **Il Ngwesi**, a community-owned safari lodge on the edge of Kenya's Northern Frontier district. Families flock to **O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat** on Australia's Gold Coast.

### Island Abodes

#### WATER WORLDS

At the new **Six Senses Zil Pasyon** in the Seychelles, guests can kayak to Ile Cocos Marine National Park. Director Francis Ford Coppola opened **Coral Caye** last year in Belize, surrounded by a rainbow of sea life. **Concordia's** canvas solar cabins on St. John, USVI, were one of the early ecotourism landmarks. Madagascar's **Tsara Komba Lodge** is prime for spotting lemurs and chameleons. Rasta vibes thrive at **Jakes**, a family-owned retreat in Jamaica.

#### GO WITH NAT GEO

The Brando, Lapa Rios, Tsara Komba Lodge, and Aristi Mountain Resort are members of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, a collection of 55 global properties dedicated to community and conservation. For more, visit [natgeolodges.com](http://natgeolodges.com).



### Savanna Spots

#### PEACE ON THE PLAINS

Ted Turner's **Sierra Grande Lodge** in New Mexico provides access to over half a million acres of private wilderness, part of the conservation crusader's efforts to rewild America. In South Africa's Cape Floral Region, nature trails connect **Fynbos Retreat's** three bush cottages. Reindeer herders share their wisdom about the Sami indigenous way of life at northern Sweden's **Sápmi Nature Camp**. At **Estancia Los Potreros** in Argentina, gauchos lead horseback trips to hidden waterfalls. The new **Duba Expedition Camp**, a partnership between Great Plains Conservation and the Okavango Community Trust in Botswana, offers a front-row seat to Africa's majestic wildlife.

### Peak Outposts

#### HIGH ON NATURE

Crystal rivers, deep gorges, and soaring peaks combine with Greek village life at **Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas**. On a hilltop overlooking New Zealand's Coromandel Peninsula, **Manawa Ridge** merges eco-living with adventure outings. The **Lodge at Valle Chacabuco**, in Chile, sits in the heart of Patagonia Park, a conservation initiative protecting nearly 200,000 acres. Hear wolves howl at night, while staying at the **Prince of Wales's Guesthouse** in rural Transylvania. North of Hanoi in Sa Pa, **Topas Ecolodge** organizes treks into Hoang Lien National Park, a global biodiversity hotspot.

From top: **Six Senses Zil Pasyon**, in the Seychelles; **Jetwing Vil Uyana**, in Sri Lanka; and **Jakes**, in Jamaica

FROM TOP: JOHN ATHIMARITIS/SIX SENSES ZIL PASYON, JAIDEEP OBEROI/JETWING, JAKES HOTEL, VILLAS AND SPA; PREVIOUS PAGE: THE BRANDO (LODGE), TAMER KOSELI (ILLUSTRATION)