

TATLER[®]

Travel Guide 2020

The 101 best hotels in the world



101 HOTELS

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE



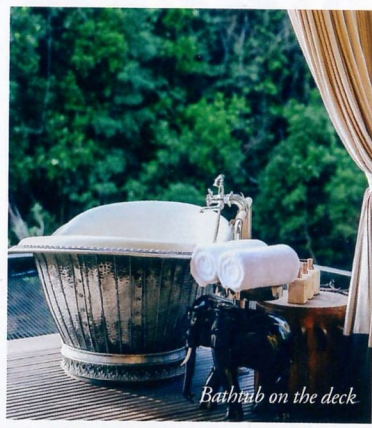
Wolf Lodge, Polar Park

Guests have a bedside view of prowling wolves as they howl plaintively at the moon

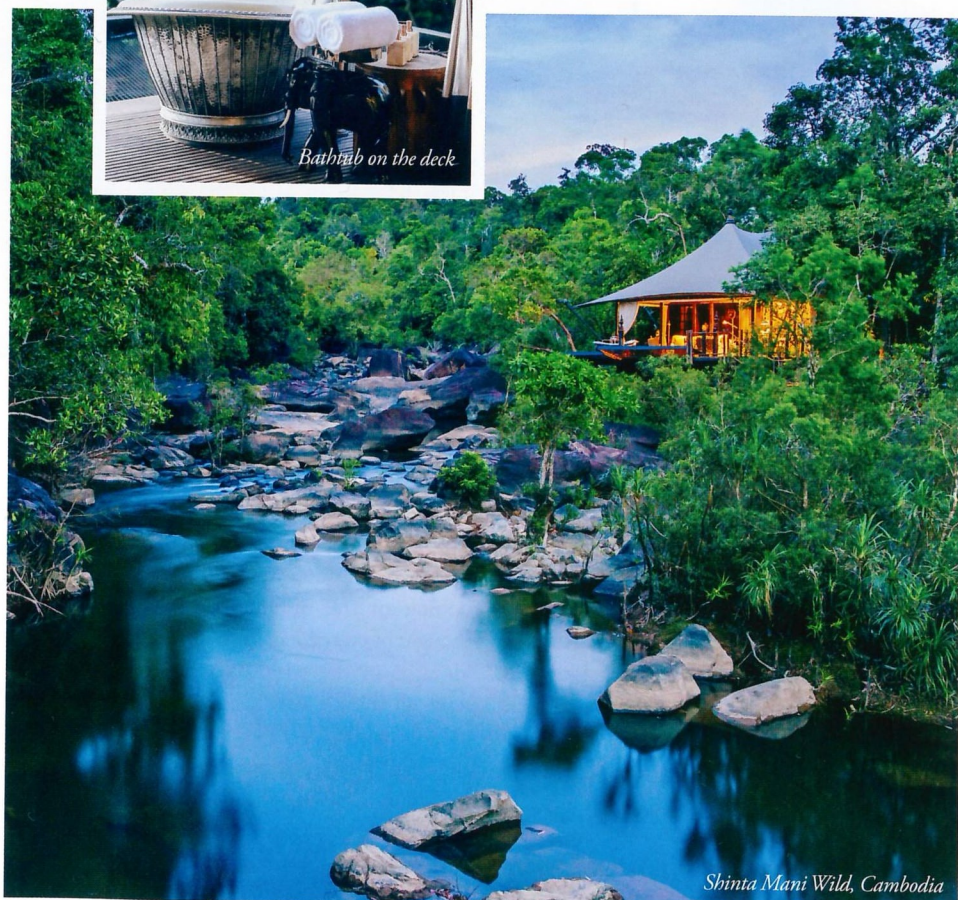
SHINTA MANI WILD

Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia

On the banks of the thundering Tmor Rung river, deep in the Cardamom Mountains, 15 luxurious tents designed with Bill Bensley's tropical exuberance provide a base camp from which to explore the uncharted wilderness. Bath tubs on wooden decks allow for a completely private early morning soak, joined only by a chorus of birdsong and the rush of the river as a kaleidoscope of butterflies, from peacock pansies to painted jzebels, flit by. The deck features a cowhide-clad 'maxi bar' filled with Whispering Angel rosé, plus bold animal-print sofas, trunks and lanterns. And then there's the tent, with photos of Jackie Kennedy in Cambodia in the Sixties, a vast bed in exquisite cotton surrounded by ancient books, and an old telephone that glints in the dim light. Outside, the real wilderness awaits with zip-line frolics, butterfly walks and swims under the waterfalls – unless the call of skilled Khmer therapists in the thatched spa proves too much to resist. A stay here also grants a direct view of conservation efforts; guests can join the rangers as they work to release animals from snares and prevent poaching and logging in this precious wildlife corridor. *Wix Squared* (wixsquared.com) offers five nights, from £4,950, including transfers.



Bathtub on the deck



Shinta Mani Wild, Cambodia

WOLF LODGE

Polar Park, Norway

This impossibly romantic and cosy lodge, with roaring fires, heated floors and 360-degree views over the snowy, frozen wildlands of northern Norway is a place to really reconnect with nature. Just over 50km from the nearest town, it's no wonder it served as the ideal remote sanctuary for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in their early courtship. Although it is one of the most luxurious lodges that Norway has to offer, with visiting chefs serving Nordic specialities such as cloudberry ice cream and smoked reindeer, it is also the perfect base from which to explore the rugged landscape with Skidoo races across icy lakes and thrilling dog-sledding trips into Sweden and across to the picturesque Lofoten Islands. What sets it apart from other sumptuous secluded lodges is that it is the only place in the world where guests can get so close to the resident pack of wolves – seven siblings born in captivity in this vast compound. Stig, the charismatic owner manager, suggests sleeping with the curtains open in the three wooden chalet-style bedrooms, so as to have a bedside view of the prowling wolves as they howl plaintively at the moon outside.

Pelorus (pelorusx.com) offers one night as part of a three-night trip, from £16,250, including Arctic experiences, transfers, all meals and beverages.