

Nature's finest
DISCOVER VIRTUALLY
UNTOUCHED
COUNTRYSIDE AND
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE
IN ROMANIA

Long-baul travel may remain unpredictable for some time. Lucky then, that we have unique, up-and-coming destinations such as Transylvania, just a three-hour flight from the UK, where newcomer Bethlen Estates is set to open in spring. Since 2007, the Bethlen family has quietly acquired tumbledown buildings in their ancestral village of Cris, restoring them to their former glory with stylish interiors peppered with antique kilim rugs, warming tiled stoves and Tom Dixon lighting. Carefully curated experiences will allow guests to delve into Transylvania's historic citadels, untamed countryside and spectacular wildlife – it's often referred to as Europe's last true wilderness.

> Pure luxury Elevate your journey

ACROSS SCOTLAND

BY TRAVELLING IN
BELMOND'S OPULENT

TRAIN CABINS

ELLE.COM/UK January



F.lle EXPLORE



3. FIRST

Women-only travel is booming. Check out companies such as AdventureWomen (offering canyoning through the Utah desert and whale watching in Baja) and Intrepid's Women's Expeditions. Or why not join one of the upcoming retreats run by the London Girls Surf Club in Sri Lanka, Fuerteventura or Morocco? Surfing makes its debut in the Tokyo Olympics, rescheduled for summer 2021, so now's the time to ride the wave. And, in Finland, there's SuperShe Island: a scenic 3.4 hectare women-only plot. To secure a spot, you have to apply and be selected – the odds rival getting a Glasto ticket, with 8,000 competing for just 100 places last summer.

With experiential train travel on the increase, it's worth getting ahead of the crowds to seek out the best journeys – for example, traversing mountain ranges on the Bernina Express from Switzerland into northern Italy. In the UK, Belmond has upped its train game after a cash injection from new owners LVMH, with the Royal Scotsman featuring an onboard Bamford spa and menu by chef Tom Kitchin, while the British Pullman debuts a route along the cool east Kent coastline. Further afield is Anantara's The Vietage: a luxury carriage for the six-hour route through Vietnam countryside between the brand's hotels in Da Nang and Quy Nhon. ▷

Sky high VIEWS ACROSS THE

DOLOMITES FROM THE PENTHOUSE SUITE AT

ITALY'S FORESTIS HOTEL

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Forever summer

NEW EXTENDED VISA

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EXPERIENCE THAILAND'S

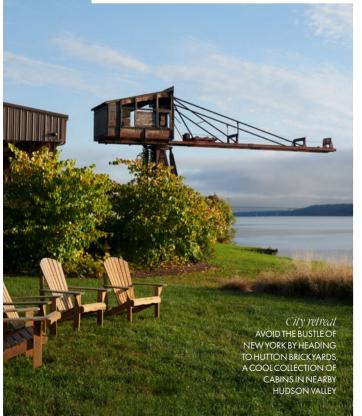
PICTURESQUE BEACHES,

SUCH AS RAILAY (BELOW),

FOR UPTO 90 DAYS



Say goodbye to the city break: it's time to look towards more rural delights. Forget shopping in Milan, and instead think yoga in the Dolomites. Just-opened hideaway Forestis offers plum views of the mountains from all its suites, alongside pine, spruce and larch treatments in the spa. Across the pond, Hudson Valley has become the favoured retreat of the fashionable New York crowd keen to escape the urban jungle. Be one of the first to book a room at Hutton Brickyards, a cool new offering from Salt Hotels, which opens in April with 31 Shaker-inspired cabins, an archery range, wildflower cutting gardens and a riverside spa. Also see Hipcamp, aimed at wilderness nuts looking for the best stargazing spots in the US.



6. BLISS

Thanks to pandemic-restricted travel, the British micro-adventure has come into its own and some unlikely hotspots have emerged. Take Herefordshire: its acres of beautiful countryside (from the Wye Valley to the Malvern Hills), network of cider farms and off-grid glamping options have put it firmly on the fashion pack's radar. Meanwhile, Easter sees the highly anticipated launch of Three Mile Beach, a collection of 15 self-catering beach houses hidden among sand dunes on the northern Cornwall coast. Created by Audley Travel founder Craig Burkinshaw and his partner Joanne Le Bon, each hut comes complete with eclectic artwork and sunken cedar hot tubs - join the waiting list now.



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