

SPHERE

PRICE £6/US\$12

HOT ON THE SCENT

HOW GEOGRAPHY
INFLUENCES
PERFUMERS

BESPOKE BRITAIN

INSIDE THREE
HOME-GROWN HERITAGE
COMPANIES

PULSE

THIS SEASON'S
SIZZLING WATCHES
AND JEWELLERY

Spring
forward

MAKE THE MOST OF THE CAPITAL'S RICHES



FLY ME TO THE MOON

BY NIGEL TISDALL

Luang Prabang, Bora Bora, Rio, the Serengeti... If you've ever wished you could see the wonders of the world in one streamlined dream trip, here is your chance. Partnering with the supremely pampering Four Seasons Private Jet – a glossy black-and-silver Boeing 757 kitted out with 52 white-leather flat-bed seats – London-based TCS World Travel's new all-inclusive "Select Escapes" journey reads like the wish-list of a lifetime. For 24 days you can be whisked around the globe in superlative style, marvelling at such famous sights as Sydney Harbour, the white temples of Udaipur in Rajasthan and the red sand-dune mountains of Sossusvlei, Namibia.

"It's all about seeing the best of this planet with maximum ease," says President Shelley Cline, whose company has been organising premium globetrotting adventures for more than 20 years. "Now there's a demand for less hectic trips," she explains, "with more time to relax at luxury hotels."

For such reasons, flights are always in the daytime and in a westerly direction, which is less tiring. A chirpy and predominantly British crew takes care of all the dreary bits, like filling in landing cards, while invisible hands magically transfer your luggage to the next five-star hotel – usually a Four Seasons.

"On previous trips we've been able to arrange an audience with an Ashanti king in Ghana, hire an entire train in Peru and organise a private visit to Hagia Sophia in Istanbul," says expedition leader Richard Butler. "These are all unforgettable experiences an individual would find hard to set up." Other benefits are having a doctor with you for the whole trip, along with cultural experts who deliver in-flight lectures that can be listened to using complimentary Bose headsets.

Pampering aside, it's worth noting that in some destinations, such as French Polynesia and Tanzania, you'll have to leave the cocoon of the jet to take a smaller plane, and itineraries can throw up interesting culture shocks as your night in the serene wilderness of the Namibian desert being followed by the hectic whirl of Rio de Janeiro. Fortunately, guests spend three nights at some destinations, allowing time for meaningful encounters and individually tailored experiences such as a balloon flight over Angkor Wat or catching some jazz in Cape Town. And if you've already been to, say, Machu Picchu, TCS will arrange a private trip to see Lake Titicaca or the Nazca Lines instead. tcsworldtravel.com/expeditions/select-escapes



NATURAL CHARMS OF PHOTOGENIC PUGLIA

Nestled in the heart of southern Italy's photogenic Puglia region, boutique Hotel Masseria Trapania opens its doors this spring. The 16th-century property near Lecce has been renovated to incorporate many of its original features throughout nine airy suites, while Thai-inspired outdoor bathtubs allow for some alfresco cleansing. A tranquil pool and gardens surround the Masseria, with fruit and nut trees a-plenty, but for those wanting to venture out, the hotel has partnered with a nearby beach. Prices from £266. trapania.com

O2 – A BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN LONDON

Catch a show and then a good night's sleep in the shiny new Intercontinental London – The O2, on Greenwich peninsula. Located a stone's throw from the music and entertainment venue, the 453-room hotel brings chic living to this burgeoning area. With two restaurants, the Clipper bar and an 18th-floor rooftop bar, it is also a fabulous venue for a pre-show cocktail. The swizzy new spa offers an indoor pool and eight treatment rooms. Rooms from £245. iclondon-theo2.com



STYLISH, PRACTICAL BEACHWEAR, I PRESUME?

Cut a dash on the beach with these stylish numbers - the partnership of British brands Orlebar Brown and Gieves & Hawkes. Inspired by Scottish explorer David Livingstone, sea-ready practicality combines with sharp Savile Row style as Orlebar Brown reinterprets the explorer's hand-drawn maps into prints. The collection also includes this safari print (right). Price £225. gievesandhawkes.com



TOTEM IS THE REAL DEAL IN MADRID

Adding to the burgeoning reputation of Madrid's Barrio de Salamanca neighbourhood, Totem hotel opens its doors in June. From the same family as Torralbenc in Menorca and Cap Rocat in Mallorca, Totem is the latest boutique hotel from Marugal Distinctive Hotel Management, with 67 sleek rooms and suites designed by Barcelona-based firm Corium, featuring floor to ceiling windows, wooden floors and sleek black marble bathrooms. From £125 per night. totem-madrid.com



NOURISH BODY AND SOUL IN PENANG

Shed pounds as you unwind in tropical comfort. Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa in Penang has launched its Wholistic Wellness Escape Programme. Staying in the Garden Wing, guests receive a personal wellness consultation, before undertaking a superfood meal plan and light exercise schedule, as well as indulging in a number of nourishing spa treatments. Shangri-La's Le Touessrok Resort & Spa in Mauritius is also open after a six-month renovation. Prices from £1,050. shangri-la.com