

MOST WANTED

A look at what caught our eye this month, from responsible travel to a palace in the sky



DESERT EXPLORATION

You can now experience the many facets of Ras Al Khaimah when booking a stay at the Banyan Tree Al Wadi and Banyan Tree Ras Al Khaimah Beach resorts. Starting this month, guests booked at either of these properties can enjoy activities such as a guided tour of the Al Wadi nature reserve, a lesson in the ancient desert practice of archery and an interactive falconry show with Banyan Tree's in-house falconer, all at no additional cost. The resorts' Kid's Club also offers complimentary activities, where young ones can get a taste for nature with an hour-long educational bird-watching buggy safari around the resort or learn about desert wildlife by following trails in the nature reserve. After a day of discovery, guests can relax in the comfort of their Bedouin-inspired villa at Banyan Tree Al Wadi, or be chauffeured in a Wi-Fi equipped Mercedes to the Banyan Tree Ras Al Khaimah Beach to enjoy views of the Arabian Sea. banyantree.com

Wedding planner

Enjoy your special day at Al Bustan Palace, Ritz Carlton, beneath the majestic Al Hajar Mountains and overlooking the Gulf of Oman. The hotel boasts the largest ballroom in the Sultanate and a dedicated wedding planner to provide assistance on details like invitations, décor, entertainment and menu choices so you can rest easy and enjoy the biggest day of your life. Among a variety of customisable packages, the Say "I Do" Before the Weekend package is for couples planning their wedding on a weekday and comes with a dedicated wedding planner, a pre-wedding menu tasting, a red carpet welcome for guests, a three-tier wedding cake as well as tea and coffee stations. Perks for the couple include complimentary dinner on the wedding night, a complimentary two-night stay in an Executive Suite, a bridal suite for use as a dressing or photography room, day access to the resort's non-motorised water sport facilities a month prior to or after the wedding and a First Anniversary set dinner voucher at any of the hotel's restaurants. ritzcarlton.com/en/events/weddings



Responsible retreat

Plan your next trip to Zanzibar with a stay in an African Eco Villa at Zanzi Resort, part of the Luxury Hotels Group network. Check in to one of the retreat's six environmentally conscious villas, situated minutes from the beach, with a private terrace overlooking tropical gardens and with access to the main swimming pool. The African Eco Villas have been constructed with local materials like wood and clay to evoke traditional homes and utilise natural sources of illumination for the light fixtures - but you won't miss out on any modern comforts. It's the ultimate upscale yet eco-friendly escape. zanziresort.com