

Wild times at Anantara's Al Sahel Villas



GO LOCAL

For a weekend sojourn that takes you back to nature, stay at Anantara's newly-opened **Al Sahel Villas** on Sir Bani Yas Island. Venture out on a safari or stay put in its one-of-a-kind thatched pool villas, and let the wildlife come to you. *From Dhs2,200 a night, Al-sahel.anantara.com*; Bed down at Ajman's very first Starwoods property, the beachside **Ajman Saray**, which opens Feb 1. The palatial penthouse Royal Suite, with its private spa treatment room, is fit for an Arabian princesses, while the seafood at Safi restaurant is set to become a *Bazaar* essential. *From Dhs600 a night, Ajmansaray.com*



Refreshing weekends at Ajman Saray



Sunglasses, Dhs1,390, Salvatore Ferragamo

Bikini, Dhs505, Melissa Odabash at Harvey Nichols Dubai

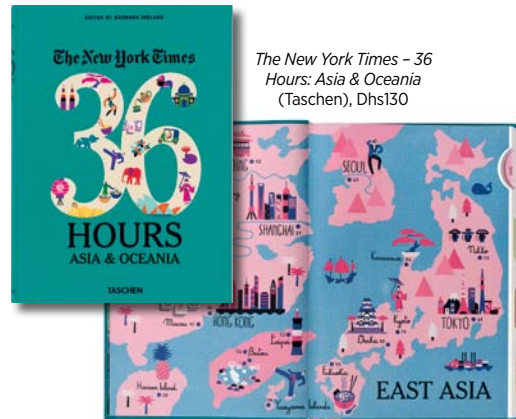
Kaftan, Dhs2,072, Helen Steele at Boutique 1

WHAT TO PACK

Stylish weekend packing courtesy of spring's colourful finds.

Bag, Dhs4,238, Charlotte Olympia at Harvey Nichols Dubai

Shoes, Dhs393, The Old House at Butterflies



The New York Times - 36 Hours: Asia & Oceania (Taschen), Dhs130

Bazaar Loves...
READ IT

Let Taschen's *The New York Times - 36 Hours: Asia & Oceania* help plot your next big trip, with suggested itineraries in over 60 beautiful destinations, from seeing the skyscrapers of Hong Kong and the beaches of Phuket to surfing in Sydney and eating sushi in Japan. *Dhs130, available at Book World By Kinokuniya, Dubai, Art Space Gallery, Dubai and Athr Gallery, Jeddah*



Fast living in The Apartment at The Connaught



Countryside pleasures at Ananda Spa

CITY LIMITS

THE CONNAUGHT, LONDON

Nestled in the heart of Mayfair, The Connaught is what high-flying city vay-cays are made of - especially when The Apartment beckons. A two-bed penthouse suite, it takes a luxury urban oasis to the next level, with light and airy interiors, a marble fireplace (for chilly spring evenings), a 10-seater dining room and a private terrace with sweeping views of London's most prestigious postcode. Venture further into the hotel for its Aman Spa (the only one in the UK), an indoor pool and its two Michelin-starred restaurant, Hélène Darroze - one of the capital's most sought-after reservations. Try the Saturday brunch or go for dinner, followed by digestifs at Connaught Bar. *From Dhs2,261 a night; The-connaught.co.uk*

COUNTRY RETREAT

ANANDA SPA, INDIA

For a more zen and holistic holiday, the foothills of the Himalayas offers you Ananda Spa. Specialising in Ayurvedic, massage, yoga, and Thai or Indian treatments, this is all about blitzing your mind, body and soul, with a promise of restoring balance and harmonising energy. Dr. Matthew is the man to know - book a consultation with him and, after he's determined your Dosha (basically your body humour), you can book your treatments - and restaurant menus - around your body type. Stay in an Ananda Villa for a peaceful retreat and your own private pool, join daily yoga sessions for max relaxation and book the Couples Connect package for a truly tranquil Valentine's Day escape. *From Dhs2,093 a night; Anandaspa.com*

ESCAPE NEWS
Staycations, bespoke travel and 2014's hot new hotels

THREE OF THE BEST

Fabulous new hotels for 2014

**BEST FOR... EXOTIC FUN
MAALIFUSHI, MALDIVES**

Fancy staying at a luxury resort which has a second private island to sunbathe or picnic on? Welcome to Maalifushi, COMO Hotels' newest and most exotic offering. From seafood BBQs and sunset cruises to glass-bottom boat trips and whale-shark sightings, you can snorkel, sleep or get pampered to your heart's content. *From Dhs2,387 a night; Comohotels.com*

Sublime views at COMO Maalifushi

are where we'll be sleeping, making best use of the private butler service. For beachside dining, Sakala Bali dishes up contemporary European food, while for the perfect evening entertainment, tuck into sundowners at the Lobby Bar. *From Dhs595 a night; Ghmhotels.com*

**BEST FOR... WILD TIMES
GANGTEY GOENPA LODGE, BHUTAN**

Before it gets taken over by tourists, make sure Bhutan is on your radar. Stay at this newly-opened 12-room farmhouse-inspired lodge for pure, understated luxury. Curl up around a log fire by night and float high above the Himalayas in a hot air balloon by day. The fresh air here does wonders for the soul. *From Dhs2,387 a night; Easternsafaris.com*

**BEST FOR... BEACH BLISS
CHEDI SAKALA, BALI**

Some say Bali is the most beautiful place on the planet and Chedi Sakala gives you one more reason to head here. The two-bedroom duplex pool villas

Rustic luxury at Gangtey Goenpa Lodge



Splash out at Chedi Sakala



Romance and rocks at New York Palace Hotel

JEWEL IN THE CROWN

Ramp up the romance at New York Palace Hotel where, just in time for award season, jewellery designer to the stars Martin Katz has unveiled his exclusive Jewel Suite. Book the Ultimate Romance Package with a one night's stay, a customised dining experience on the rooftop terrace, a private consultation with Martin Katz and two specially-designed bespoke rings just for you. *From Dhs183,649 a night; Newyorkpalace.com*

BEAUTY BUZZ
Fendi's new red hot Red Essentials box set has won a place in our vay-cay beauty bags. The L'Acquarossa perfume, scented lip gloss and nail polish will ramp up the romance wherever your Valentine's date takes you - home or away.

L'Acquarossa Red Essentials, Dhs565 (for the set), Fendi



CHANEL PARIS-DALLAS 2014



Chanel's new accessories store in Paris

DUBAI-PARIS
News that Chanel's boutique at 42 Avenue Montaigne has reopened will see the fashion pack flock to Paris this month to pick up new-season accessories, bags, shoes and costume jewellery. Credit cards beware. **+33 (+33) 14 070 8200**

THE BUZZ

Want a tailor-made holiday to some of the most exclusive destinations on this planet? Enter travel geniuses Abercrombie & Kent and its first UAE boutique in Etihad Towers, Abu Dhabi, offering bespoke itineraries created by the 'Travel Curators', iPads for visual inspiration, discreet VIP suites and private home visits for Dubai-based customers. *Abercrombiekent.com*

Wildlife and wild rides at Abercrombie & Kent



WORDS: EMILY BAXTER. PRICES APPROXIMATE

PRICES APPROXIMATE