



[EXPERIENCES]

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

Done badly, there aren't many industries with as much of an environmental impact as travel, but these breaks are putting sustainability, ecology and regeneration top of the agenda, from wild safaris to catamaran cruises and more

1,000

Acres of eco reserve at Sani Resorts Halkidiki

900KG

Plastic collected by Vakkaru hotel in the Maldives

3,505M

Altitude of leopard-watching town Leh in Nepal

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK is so often overcast with doom and gloom that it can be easy to lose track of how far we've come. In the past, the most important features of a hotel stay would inevitably be a flatscreen TV, decent room service and comfy pillows.

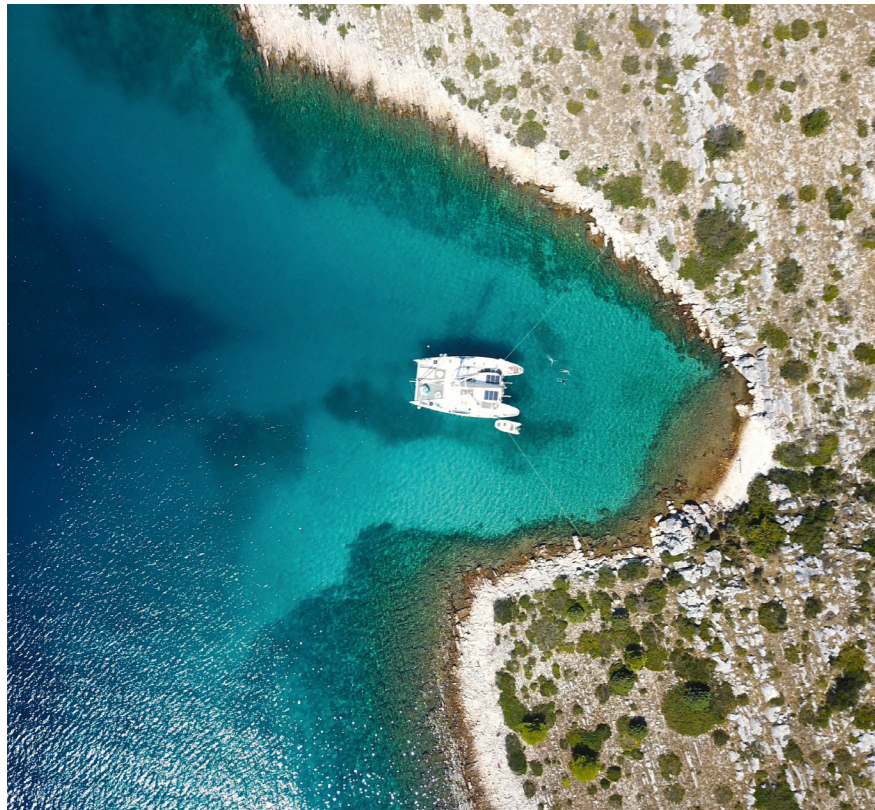
And just two decades ago it would be hard to imagine that travellers would be touting sustainability and ecological measures as one of the most important facets in choosing where – and how – they travel. Yet here we are in 2022, staring down the proverbial barrel, and surveys are saying that 83% of travellers believe that sustainability is vital.

While greenwashing is a real thing and hotels across the world have cottoned on to the fact that sustainability is an indispensable part of modern-day marketing, it's heartening to see operators, tourism offices and properties across the planet jump >

Words by
ESCAPISM TEAM

SUNDOWNERS:
The Grumeti Serengeti River Lodge in Tanzania gets guests up-close and personal with safari animals, with a focus on conservation initiatives





LIFE'S A BEACH: [left] Luxury sailing holiday operator High Point Yachting's chartered tours go big on renewables, and also offer beach clean-up days

implementing systems to reduce waste, cut out single-use plastic and rely less on fossil fuels. And that's not the only point of sale (sail?) – many of its boats have been fitted with world-class onboard technology and top-end solar panels to generate their own electricity. Optional beach clean-ups are also a great way to give back to the great blue sea, and with travel itineraries across the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and French Polynesia, there are plenty of stunning sandy stretches to make pristine.

Crewed catamarans start from £10,000, £15,000 for gulets and £50,000 for super yachts. For more information, go to highpointyachting.com

HOLIDAY ENERGY

Sani Resorts, Halkidiki, Greece

Sani Resorts has become a watchword amongst overworked urban parents looking to get away from it all. Laid amongst the rocks of the Kassandra Peninsula in Halkidiki, the Greek resort offers seven kilometres of pristine beachfront and 20km of trails amongst its 1,000 acre eco reserve. As one of the forerunners of luxury family travel and a hotel that has played host to successive generations of children, Sani is taking steps to safeguard their future through a comprehensive suite of sustainability initiatives. Having already secured 100% renewable energy for electricity, the Sani Green programme will see the property establishing a triple zero goal: to be net-zero by 2030, as well as zero-plastic and zero-waste by 2024. Other achievements of the dedicated Sani Green programme include reducing water use in the last five years by 48%, reducing single-use plastic by 80% since 2013, as well as recycling rates of over 90%. To us, that's

inaugural 12-day rail holiday to Puglia in southern Italy by way of a two-day journey via Basel and Milan, with an electric rental car awaiting travellers in Bari to bring them to small scale accommodation nearby. In a phrase, its feet are firmly on the ground. Available from summer 2023, €1,550 per person; elizawashere.co.uk

TAKE TO THE HIGH SEAS

High Point Yachting

Centuries before the internal combustion engine, the sail was king of long-distance travel. Sailing is undoubtedly one of the most sustainable means of covering ground (or, well, water) with trace emissions, but that doesn't mean that there isn't room for improvement. High Point Yachting has jumped at the chance to push the envelope with sustainable boat chartering,

HAVING SECURED 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY, SANI RESORTS HALKIDIKI IS COMMITTED TO BEING NET-ZERO BY 2030

> on this bandwagon. Check out these great initiatives from operators around the world.

REDUCING IMPACT

GO FLIGHTLESS

Eliza Was Here, Puglia, Italy

Commercial flights emit roughly twenty times the amount of CO₂ per passenger than train travel, and are one of the primary movers of CO₂ emissions for the contemporary traveller. Luckily, many operators are taking this in stride and adapting their offerings to promote more sustainable, responsible means of transport. Eliza Was Here, a Mediterranean-focused travel agency that prides itself on steering travellers away from mass tourism, is one such business. Opting out of CO₂ compensation and offsetting, it's instead looking into sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, which emits at least 75% CO₂ than fossil kerosene. Additionally, Eliza Was Here has been pivoting to focus increasingly on alternative means of travel, particularly by train. The company has introduced an

worth breaking a few proverbial plates for. Sani Beach offers a Double Room from €129 per night on a half-board basis; sani-resort.com

LIVE YOUR FANTASY

The Torridon, Highlands, Scotland

Fun fact. George R.R. Martin was inspired to name the primary setting of *Game of Thrones* – Westeros – after the remote Wester Ross region of the Scottish Highlands. For anyone au fait with the country, they'll know it offers some of the most immaculate wilderness in Europe, and for luxury hotels, The Torridon is the gem in its crown, a Scots baronial castle overlooking the limpid waters of the eponymous loch. The hotel has launched a whole raft of sustainability initiatives to work in harmony with and preserve the nature in which it thrives. Single-use plastics have been strictly verboten, a brand new energy-efficient kitchen powered by renewable energy has been installed, and biomass has become a main source of energy throughout the property. More than half of the produce used at The Torridon's two restaurants is produced on its on-site farm and kitchen garden, and further ingredients are sourced from the surrounding area to support the local community.

Rooms at The Torridon from £350 per night on a B&B basis; thetorridon.com



GET SOME ALONE TIME

Loggers Lodge, Lapland, Sweden

Sustainability goes hand-in-glove with Loggers Lodge, which bills itself 'as a simple cabin in the woods sympathetically elevated with sustainable technology'. The one-bedroom cabin, set within five kilometres of forest in northern Sweden, was originally built as a temporary home for itinerant loggers in the late 19th century. It's recently been renovated top-to-tail with luxury and sustainability front and centre, and the latter has led the way in every decision. A

high-tech shower recycles water immediately back into the shower system, ensuring minimal wastage. Waste is handled by a mini treatment plant that exceeds the strict guidelines from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The main heating in the lodge and the extra bedroom unit is via an energy-efficient air source heat pump, and >

RETURN OF THE YAK: [above] The Torridon in the Scottish highlands offers the chance to get back to nature; remote, unspoiled beauty in Swedish Lapland

