

PRESTIGE

THE FORTUNE ISSUE

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Under the Radar, Right on Point

Everyone wants to travel off the beaten track. These lesser-known destinations offer the sweet spot of adventure with a touch of luxury.



FLORES & FABULOUS

The beach getaways of Bali and Phuket have their charms, but to skip the crowds, go to Labuan Bajo in Indonesia. Just 3.5 hours from Singapore on Scoot's new direct flight, this gateway to Komodo National Park is a playground for intrepid explorers. Think dramatic cliffs, pink-sand beaches and encounters with the world's last Komodo dragons. Its waters teem with manta rays and vibrant coral, while island-hopping reveals secluded coves far from tourist throngs.

Ta'aktana, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, is Marriott International's first property in Labuan Bajo and one of the few luxury stays in the region. Its tropical-minimalist suites and villas boast sweeping ocean and jungle views, while local ingredients take centre stage on the culinary programme. Also consider curated island tours and cultural immersions that offer opportunities to explore the rugged beauty of Flores on your own terms.

WORDS: KAREN TEE



NORTHERN VIETNAM, ELEVATED

If you've already "done" mountainous getaways in Chiang Mai or Chiang Rai in Thailand and China's Yunnan, turn your compass to Northern Vietnam. Mu Cang Chai is a lesser-known highland district where the scenery dials up the drama with vertiginous rice terraces, mist-laced peaks and winding roads that make the six-hour drive from Hanoi feel like a scenic rite of passage rather than a chore.

Home to the Hmong ethnic minority, the region is still shaped by age-old agricultural traditions and deeply rooted rituals. Newly opened Garrya Mu Cang Chai, part of the Banyan Tree Group, blends seamlessly into this landscape with its pared-back architecture drawing on bamboo, a Vietnamese mainstay, and brocade-inspired motifs inspired by traditional Hmong textiles.

Visit during Lunar New Year, known locally as Tet, and the experience deepens. There are local village celebrations, communal gatherings, and highland games and wedding rituals that mark the arrival of spring – all without the performative gloss usually trotted out for tourists.

CAST AWAY IN KOH RONG

In an age of high-tech longevity clinics and biohacking retreats that feel more like sci-fi sets than sanctuary, this private island retreat in slow-living Cambodia takes a deliberately gentler path. The newly launched Saraan Sanctuaries is an extension of pioneering eco-luxe resort Song Saa Private Island, which occupies a neighbouring islet connected by a simple wooden footbridge.

Accessible via a 45-minute speedboat ride from the coastal port town of Sihanoukville to the Koh Rong archipelago, Saraan is designed to gently encourage guests to reconnect with the natural world. Wellness here is intuitive and takes its cues from nature. There is an outdoor jungle gym fashioned from tree logs; an over-water pavilion for meditation, treatments and sound healing; and a raw bar where ingredients foraged from the surrounding jungle set the tone for a low-impact, nourishing approach to dining. Unplugging from the hustle of modern life has never felt so organic.

