

2020 Bucket List Destinations Revealed!

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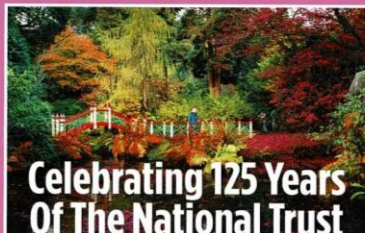
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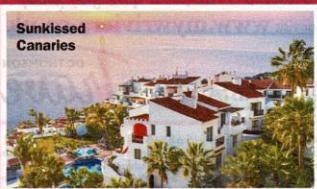
Bucket List Destinations

We all have a holiday bucket list so why not make 2020 the year that you start ticking off your dream destinations?

Closer To Home

Not so keen on travelling long distances? Closer to home, the Canary Islands offer year-round sunshine, the Greek Islands are stunning, and Malta is a great place to escape and learn to scuba dive. Or take a cruise from Southampton, to explore beautiful destinations around Europe.

Sunkissed Canaries



Mesmerising Maldives



Fun in Fiji

For long sandy beaches, stunning azure waters and palm trees, you can't beat a tropical island. The Maldives in the Arabian Sea offers diving with hammerhead sharks; the Bahamas, off the coast of Florida, have wild flamingos and amazing birdlife; the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean are known for their spellbinding beaches; and the Caribbean Islands, near Central America, offer vibrant culture, salsa and reggae! Fiji, in the south Pacific, has over 300 islands and incredible sealife. Bermuda in

the North Atlantic has a Crystal Cave, Fantasy Cave, and is a top diving destination for its coral reefs. Tropical islands offer sun-drenched experiences you'll never forget. Prefer to visit larger countries? Head to Australia for a long break in the Outback to see incredible wildlife, including kangaroos, camels, dingos, crocodiles, and lizards. The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland, is second to none for swimming, diving and snorkelling. Sydney Opera House

My Safari Dream

My Weekly reader Sally Edwards realised her dream of going on an African safari at the age of 61. "We went with Chobe National Park Safaris, accompanied by a knowledgeable guide," she explains. "It was an unforgettable experience! We saw lions, buffalo, zebras, lots of elephants, giraffes, deer and hippos in the Chobe River. In Zimbabwe we had luxury wooden chalets, but most of the time we were camping in the bush! The guides set up camp and we slept in comfortable beds. When the truck got stuck, I waited under a tree, because I was an oldie, while the others pushed!"



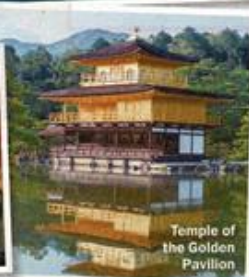
Sydney Opera House



Bermuda's Crystal Cave



Temple of the Golden Pavilion



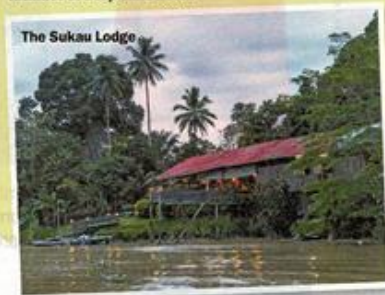
and Harbour Bridge are top city destinations. And for lush green countryside, you can't beat Kakadu National Park, in the Northern Territory. This enormous nature reserve has wetlands, rivers and over 2,000 species of plants and wildlife. For a real change of culture, how about Asia? Old and new collide in this part of the world, where you'll find incredible landscapes and amazing heritage. The Great Wall of China is a top tourist destination, with guided tours exploring the history of the Wall and its stunning

vistas. See traditional Chinese architecture alongside modern skyscrapers in the cities. The Forbidden City in Beijing is the former Chinese imperial palace. Visit the Palace Museum to learn more about the Ming Dynasty and the country's history. Another fabulous Asian destination is Japan. Visit Jigokudani Monkey Park, Mount Fuji with its stunning spring blossoms, and explore historic temples, castles, and shrines. The Temple of the Golden Pavilion is the country's most popular attraction.

Something Different

For luxury travel with a difference, visit an eco-lodge in a tropical rainforest. These places don't come cheap, but for a feel-good glow, choose one that supports conservation projects in the jungle. One such place is the Mashpi Lodge Ecuador, a five star hotel and research station at the forefront of rainforest protection in the Mashpi Reserve. Learn about the work they're doing to protect the species who live in the Amazon rainforest and to preserve their habitat. You can go on excursions to explore the delights that the rainforest has to offer and see the animals that live within its canopy. www.mashpilodge.com In the Borneo Rainforest, the Sukau Rainforest Lodge sits beside the Kinabatangan River, where wild animals drink and bathe. The Lodge won the Asia's Most Eco-Friendly Hotel Award in 2019, and from here, you can explore the rainforest and see some of the animals who live in the trees. Go on guided excursions and tours during the day - there are loads to choose from. www.sukau.com These eco-lodges offer an incredible way to immerse yourself in the wildness of the rainforest, and see the animals, while still enjoying luxury facilities at a top class hotel.

The Sukau Lodge



WORDS: SUSIE NEARLEY PICTURES: SHUTTERSTOCK