

HOT SPOTS

STUNNING BEACHES TO DOWN-TOWELS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE AFRICAN COAST

NEW LAGOON

A helicopter ride over the Maputo Elephant Reserve is the most spectacular and most comfortable way to access southern Mozambique's underdeveloped Lagoon Coast. Running north from South Africa's north-eastern border are hundreds of miles of uninterrupted white-sand beaches barely touched by development. Wildlife lovers can watch turtles, whales and dolphin pods from one of 22 ocean-facing suites of the new White Pearl Resort (www.whitepearlresorts.com), located in blissful solitude 14km from the nearest property. *Turquoise offers a seven-night twin-centre holiday including three nights at Garonga Safari Camp in South Africa on an all-inclusive basis, and four at White Pearl Resort (half-board), from £2,950pp, based on two sharing, with flights and transfers. 01494-678400; www.turquoiseholidays.co.uk*



PURE SHORES

The Kenyan island of Lamu has long been a popular choice for post-safari flop, but for splendid isolation head north to Kiwayu, which boasts one of the most pristine marine environments on the Kenyan coast. 'Kiwayu is a lost island; its beaches are still wild and untouched,' says Joffy Bastard of East Africa specialists 37° East. Combine a stay at Kiwayu Safari Lodge with Ishaq Bini, a conservancy and luxury camp and on the Tana River, open December. *Seven-night, twin-centre, from £3,322pp, all-inclusive, excl. international flights. 020-8871 3648; www.37east.co.uk*

DREAM DESTINATION: NOSY BE, MADAGASCAR

Nosy Be, a sleepy island of sugar cane plantations and rum distilleries, five miles off the northwest coast of Madagascar, is one of the great undiscovered destinations in the southern hemisphere.

The island mostly attracts well-heeled French and Italian travellers thanks to direct flights from mainland Europe, but flying into Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo (a two-hour internal flight from Nosy Be), presents the opportunity to drink in the country's landscapes and wildlife before hitting the beach.

From Nosy Be keen divers can explore the coral around Nosy Komba, Nosy Tanikely or Nosy Sakatia, or for those who prefer dry land, there's lemur-spotting in Lokobe Nature Reserve. That said, it is the



smaller islands in the Mozambique Channel, served by Nosy Be, that are the real prizes. Completely off the radar, these islets have pristine beaches and

shallow waters, plus a bounty of flora and fauna.

There is a handful of world-class hideaways to choose from. Top of the list is **Anjajavy** (www.anjajavy.com), a Relais & Châteaux property with a 450-hectare reserve, home to lemurs, chameleons and iguanas. **Nosy Iranja** (www.iranjalodge.co.za), part of the Legacy hotel group, is a 90-minute boat trip from Nosy Be, but worth the seafaring for its isolated perfection. **Constance Tsarabanjina** (www.tsarabanjina.com) is a paradise island with 25 rosewood bungalows, while **Hotel Eden Lodge** (left), in virgin forest on Nosy Be, is the first Indian Ocean hotel to get Green Globe certification thanks to its unwavering eco values (www.edenlodge.net). *LB*

FIVE OF THE BEST

These new retreats in the Maldives have something for everyone...

1 BEST FOR WINE LOVERS

ANANTARA KIHAVAH

With more than 6,500

bottles, Kihavah's cellar is one of the best stocked in the Maldives.

www.anantara.com

2 BEST FOR THE WALLET

CONSTANCE MOOFUSHI

Rates start from £2,699pp

for seven nights all-inclusive, with flights and transfers through www.destinology.co.uk.

www.moofushiresort.com



3 BEST FOR SPA-LOVERS

NIYAMA, MALDIVES

A first in the Maldives,

Niyama's Lime Spa is open 24-hours.

www.peraquum.com

4 BEST FOR SPORTY TYPES

AYADA MALDIVES

The resort (pictured) has a floodlit tennis court, mini-football, volleyball and badminton courts.

www.ayadamaldives.com

5 BEST FOR DIVING

PARK HYATT MALDIVES

HADAHAA

The resort is located in one of the deepest and largest atolls in the Indian Ocean. www.hyatt.com