



# island escapes

*Small islands, whether tropical or not, seem to exhibit a strange magnetism to the traveller. Here we highlight some of our favourites.*

## **Lankayan Island** *Malaysia*

A jewel-like tiny island in the Sulu Sea, Malaysia's **Lankayan** is unpopulated and covered by thick tropical vegetation. This peaceful, untouched little bit of paradise is ringed by an endless pure white sandy beach and is the ideal destination for those who search for tranquillity and relaxation in a natural setting. Accommodation is simple yet elegant in a handful of wooden, roomy and perfectly appointed seafront chalets. In addition to this, Lankayan Island is also one of the most spectacular diving destinations on the map. The dive sites – all just a few minutes away – boast unbelievably colourful macro fauna, fascinating wrecks and regular sightings of whale sharks. For further details please contact our Borneo specialists on **01869 276 200**.



## **Waiheke Island** *New Zealand*

Just 35 minutes by ferry from downtown Auckland, sits **Waiheke Island** – with 25 miles of untouched, pristine white sand beaches, sub-tropical forests, estuaries rich in birdlife

and a vibrant local arts and crafts scene. The pace of life is gentle and even the climate is warmer than Auckland's! There are more than 25 vineyards, producing boutique wines best sampled at one of the island's restaurants or

bohemian cafés. Waiheke Island is a world away from the commerce of the world's largest Polynesian city just across the Hauraki Gulf. For further details contact our New Zealand specialists on **01869 276 245**.





**Taprobane Island** *Sri Lanka*

Situated around 200 metres off the south coast of Sri Lanka, sandwiched between the stilt fishermen of Welligama and the beautiful bay of Mirissa, lies the famous island villa of **Taprobane**. The former home of Count de Mauny and later a hideaway for author, Arthur C Clarke, today Taprobane offers luxury and unsurpassed privacy to discerning clients. The villa sleeps ten with each elegantly furnished

room offering views of the Indian Ocean. Other attractions include a fantastic infinity pool, rock pools to paddle in and immaculate gardens to ramble through. To guarantee superlative levels of service, a resident chef, butler, house maids and gardener are on hand to cater to your every whim. For larger groups, Taprobane can prove a surprisingly good value option, for further details please call our Sri Lanka specialists on 01869 276 218.



**Robinson Crusoe Island** *Chile*



We will not shipwreck you but fly you to **Robinson Crusoe Island**, which lies about 250 miles off the coast of Chile. This remote and hilly island was home to Alexander Selkirk after he was put ashore there 300 years ago, he then became the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's classic story. Outdoor activities such as trekking, snorkelling, lobster fishing and diving are the main attractions. For further details please contact our Chile specialists on 01869 276 210.



**Bazaruto Islands** *Mozambique*

The **Bazaruto Archipelago** is a string of sand islands, off the coast of Mozambique. The islands are inhabited and tiny villages are clustered under cashew and mango trees. You see little children walking along the beach carrying fish almost bigger than they are and dhows sail between the islands. Offshore, untouched coral reefs stretch for miles and the snorkelling and diving is outstanding. The

islands are unspoilt and do not offer large hotels with extensive facilities but only three tiny lodges, where the focus is on 'barefoot luxury'. Cottages are thatched and often open-sided. There are small boats for snorkel and dive trips and in the evenings the focus is perhaps a dhow cruise, dinner lit by lanterns on the beach and then chatting beside the fire. For further details please contact our Mozambique specialists on 01869 276 250.

