



# Travelling *Right*

“**R**esponsible tourism is the current phrase on everyone’s lips in the world of travel. From the emergence of companies dedicated to this method of travel alone to increased media coverage, it has become a big influence on decision making at all levels. For many tourists however, the concept of responsible tourism conjures up images of basic tribal homestays or tie-dye wearing backpackers communing with nature! For Audley, the main principles of responsible tourism (environmental protection, economic benefit for local communities etc) are vital to us, something which has been reflected in the award of our ★★★ AITO Responsible Tourism status. However, we believe that it is still possible to combine good ethics with style, comfort and character. Here we focus on a sample of the many properties from across our programmes.”

#### ▲ **Chumbe Island Lodge** *Zanzibar, Tanzania*

Chumbe Island is a small coral island in the Zanzibar Archipelago. There are low cliffs covered in emerald vegetation, white sandy beaches and offshore, the turquoise waters hide beautiful coral reefs. Above one of the beaches, **Chumbe Island Lodge** is a perfect example of responsible tourism. Chumbe has seven ingeniously designed bandas with bedrooms upstairs (you can see the stars from your bed) and a living area downstairs. Each banda catches, filters and uses its own rainwater. All the guides on Chumbe come from local fishing villages and activities include guided nature walks and snorkel trips. All the profits from the lodge are returned into the local community and to further conservation and education projects. For more details please call our Tanzania specialists on 01869 276 250.



#### ◀ **Fern Resort** *Thailand*

The **Fern Resort** near Mae Hong Son was constructed using Thai government funds to encourage ecologically sound tourism in rural areas. The resort gives the local Karen people an opportunity to earn a living and also gives guests an opportunity to meet local minorities. Nestled in a small valley surrounded by jungle clad mountains and rice paddies the resort has no

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televisions or telephones in the rooms, however, there is air-conditioning and a swimming pool so you can enjoy a comfortable stay. The grounds have been deliberately planted with trees that are a food source for animals and birds, and nature trails behind the resort lead into Mae Surin National Park. For further details please call our Thailand specialists on 01869 276 200.

### **Bellavista Cloudforest Reserve** *Ecuador*

The Bellavista Cloudforest Reserve lies in deepest northwestern Ecuador, yet is only two hours outside the capital, Quito, and therefore easily accessible. Up to twenty guests can stay in the bamboo house or the four storey thatched dome, enjoying essential comforts yet experiencing the incredible range of wildlife only possible somewhere so remote. Naturalist guides lead hikes through the forest, home to over 300 species of birds, as well as the endangered Spectacled Bear, and their respect of this precious habitat is reflected in careful environmental policies employed throughout the accommodation and the reserve. Bellavista doubles as a research station, with ecology scientists and volunteers visiting regularly, and is associated with the Fundacion Siempre Bosque, a conservation organisation dedicated to the protection of cloud forests for educational, scientific, and responsible tourism purposes. For further details please call our Ecuador specialists on 01869 276 210.



### ◀ **Wilderness Lodge** *Lake Moeraki, New Zealand*

On the remote and rugged west coast of New Zealand's South Island, in the heart of an ancient rainforest beside a glacial lake and overlooked by the dramatic Southern Alps, sits the small but luxurious **Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge**. The lodge was established to demonstrate that nature protection and tourism can sustain small communities in rural New Zealand, in a region which had previously been suffering from the devastating effects of commercial logging activity. The lodge's owner, Dr Gerry McSweeney, was one of the principal campaigners for having the region classified as a National Park, promoting eco-tourism as an alternative to logging. Guests are encouraged to embark on nature discovery activities, designed to introduce you to the wildlife, forests and coastline. For further details please call our New Zealand specialists on 01869 276 245.

### **Green Hotel** *Mysore, India*

▶ The Chittarajan Palace, or **Green Hotel**, was originally built for the Maharaja of Mysore's sisters and was a royal residence until the late 1940's when it was transformed into a film studio. The property is now run and lovingly maintained by the UK-based Landmark Trust. The Trust wanted to maintain a distinctly traditional approach, allowing no rooms to have air conditioning or televisions, but period fans and local music for the evening's entertainment. The overall philosophy is to showcase the handicrafts and textiles from the local villagers, many of which are of a wonderfully high quality. From the hand loomed linen on the beds to the crockery used in the restaurant, all are produced in neighbouring villages. Only local produce is used and organic vegetables are grown in the gardens. All profits are distributed to charitable and environmental projects in India. For further details please call our India specialists on 01869 276 218.

