

AUTHENTIC ORIGINAL & UNIQUE

- 1 Bay of Islands Lodge,
New Zealand
- 2 Ubud Hanging Gardens,
Bali, Indonesia
- 3 Baytil Ajaib,
Lamu, Kenya
- 4 Royal Madikwe,
South Africa
- 5 Fazenda Pai Mateus,
Brazil
- 6 Galle Fort Hotel,
Sri Lanka



Audley's specialists select the best of the new crop of character places to stay

GALLE FORT HOTEL *Sri Lanka*

Located in the heart of Galle's Dutch Fort, which was built in 1663 and is now a World Heritage Site, the Galle Fort Hotel is housed in a former Dutch merchant's home. It has been meticulously and beautifully restored with period furniture, both antique and reproduced, wooden floors and an impressive collection of porcelain. A large modern pool has been sympathetically added. The atmosphere, however, is definitely not that of a stuffy museum, rather it has a relaxed homely feel. Owners Karl and Chris are on hand to tell you about the history of the building. Aside from the architecture and décor, the food is a major highlight. Thai, Malaysian and Vietnamese dishes are all served, lovingly prepared with fresh ingredients. The fort area of Galle was not affected by the tsunami due to the thick high stone walls and it remains a delightful place to wander and work up an appetite between lunch and dinner!

Jenny Smith
01869 276 259

FAZENDA PAI MATEUS *Brazil*

For anyone really wanting to do something adventurous in Brazil, why not take a few days to explore the Sertao, the Brazilian equivalent to the Australian outback. A drive inland from the beautiful northeast coastal areas around Recife and Natal, the region is semi-arid and rich in stunning landscapes, bountiful wildlife and prehistoric sites. The region is best explored by four wheel drive (we organise the vehicle and driver), with your base at the incredibly remote Fazenda Pai Mateus. A working farm, the simple but charming fazenda offers a warm welcome after days exploring the region. Relax in the pool after a long day in the heat, and enjoy the local delicacies after a caiprinha or two.

Paula Kirby
01869 276 237



2

UBUD HANGING GARDENS *Bali - Indonesia*

Perched on the rice terraces above the town of Ubud the Hanging Gardens is due to open in July this year. The rooms are in traditional Balinese style and are connected to the restaurant, spa and library via a funicular railway. As well as each room having its own pool there is a vast elliptical infinity edge pool that mirrors the natural curves of the hillside. The resort offers trekking, cycling and golf. Located next to a traditional Balinese village it is the perfect base for exploring the culturally fascinating area around Ubud.

Charlie Read
01869 276 234

BAY OF ISLANDS LODGE *New Zealand*

The Bay of Islands, in New Zealand's scenic Northland, is renowned for its picturesque island-studded waterways, secluded bays and unspoilt vistas. This new, custom-built lodge has been carefully designed to provide luxurious, elegant suites which truly make the most of this stunning location. Set in a private area of native bush, the lodge has been created using natural colours, employing native timbers to blend with the surroundings. Floor-to-ceiling windows, large decks and the expansive open-plan lounge provide panoramic views over the Veronica Channel and comprise of nothing but sea, sky and native flora. Separating the guest rooms on the lower deck is an enticing infinity pool where guests can relax and delight in the glorious views.

Felicity Garrick
01869 276 265



3



4



5

BAYTIL AJAIB

Lamu - Kenya

Baytil Ajaib is the most beautifully restored Swahili House in Lamu Town. The owner Malik, a flamboyant character, has spent ten years lovingly restoring it to its former glory. An impossibly narrow street leads you to an unobtrusive carved wooden door - from the outside you are not aware of anything special. Stepping through it you are greeted by a cool airy courtyard surrounded by walls and pillars a metre thick. Exquisite antiques from all over the world are in shady corners. The house has four rooms which you reach by steep stone stairs. Each room has cool stone floors, hand-carved Lamu beds and a few rare antiques. At the top of the house are sunny rooftop terraces, ideal for either sunny days or dinner under the stars at night.

Sarah Harvey
01869 276 269

ROYAL MADIKWE

South Africa

The Madikwe reserve, located on the Botswana border in the north-west of South Africa, is quite young, and really coming to fruition now: game is plentiful and it is a great spot for seeing wild dog. The scenery is stunning, with granite koppies rising into the sky, dotted with rounded boulders and acacia trees. Royal Madikwe is a new lodge with just five chalets. The décor is elegant and colonial, but understated – earthen colours give a wonderfully relaxed feel. The lodge managers, Iain and Sue, live on site and have a fantastic gift for making you feel welcome and at home, helped by a team of friendly staff who are always ready with a smile and a greeting. As well as traditional game drives, Royal Madikwe is also excellent for bush walks, either from the lodge or in the wilderness areas of the reserve, only accessible on foot.

Cate Mackenzie
01869 276 273



6