





# Work, Rest and Play

*One of the most rewarding aspects of travelling is meeting local people and really getting to know their culture and lifestyle. At Audley, we aim to help you do just that, and have a number of properties around the world where it's possible to get involved, work alongside the locals and really get a feel for a place. Here are some of our favourites.*



*Olavipe Homestay, Kerala*

## **Olavipe, Kerala, India**

Set on a 40-acre organic farm amid the lush tropical greenery of Olavipe Island, this grand heritage home offers visitors a unique way to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Keralan backwaters. As guests of the Parayil Tharakans, a well-connected and prominent Syrian Christian family, you will be staying in their 19th-century home where you can just unwind in a hammock, explore the farm or take strolls through the village. You can explore the region with the family boatman who can take you for a ride along the local backwaters or you can canoe on the peaceful lagoon. And after a day exploring, you will be treated to a traditional Keralan meal taken with your well-travelled and entertaining hosts around the large family dining table.

*Joe Parkes 01993 838 331*



*The tack room at Estancia Cerro Guido*

## **Estancia Rio Penitente and Estancia Cerro Guido, Chile**

Two of our favourite Latin American working ranches are to be found in Chilean Patagonia. Estancia Rio Penitente, between the towns of Punta Arenas and Puerto Varas, dates back to 1891 and is a traditional sheep-rearing ranch, while Estancia Cerro Guido boasts the magnificent backdrop of the rocky towers of Torres del Paine National Park and rears sheep and cattle. Depending on the time of year, guests can watch traditional activities such as shearing, calving, branding, sheep herding and the breaking of wild horses. Both estancias offer comfortable, homely accommodation with excellent food and wine, ideal for some relaxation after a day out in the wilds of this beautiful part of Chile.

*Nick Giles 01993 838 607*



Villa El Ksour, Ksar Ezzit

### Ksar Ezzitt, Tunisia

For a glimpse of Tunisian rural life and centuries-old agricultural practices, consider a stay at Ksar Ezzit, an organic farm nestled in the hills between Tunis and Kairouan. The farm produces organic olive oil and honey as well as most of the ingredients for meals served in its restaurant. The rooms and villas here draw inspiration from different regions of Tunisia and there's also a biologically-filtered and energy-efficient swimming pool. Ksar Ezzit offers a unique opportunity to get off the beaten track and encounter a different side of Tunisia.

*Sarah Whatman 01993 838 409*



Olive presses at Ksar Ezzit



Kawaza village, Zambia

### Kawaza Village, Zambia

Kawaza Village is not a "tourist village" but a real village, located close to the border of the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia. Visitors are welcomed to come and spend a night or two in one of the six traditional clay and grass guest huts. Each hut is very simple but spotlessly clean and cool with single or twin beds, mosquito nets and a small chair. There are simple washing facilities and two WCs for guest use and in the evening a large bowl of hot water will be filled for you to wash off the dust. At Kawaza, the more you put into it the more you get out. You will be invited to try things such as pounding grain or cooking. The villagers love you to participate and enjoy showing you how they do things. You can visit the local school, where you might like to get involved with the lessons that day, you will also be able to see the village clinic and meet the local witch doctor. It is not usually possible to stay right in the heart of a traditional village. Kawaza is therefore a unique experience. It is fascinating as you learn so much and see an aspect of life very different to a luxury safari camp.

*Alexandra Matts 01993 838 512*



Playing football at the school, Kawaza village



Lanjia Lodge, northern Thailand

### Lanjia Lodge, northern Thailand

Nestled on a hill overlooking the Mekong River, Lanjia Lodge is built in traditional Hmong style and consists of four buildings each with four comfortable rooms. The lodge is a great example of community-based tourism with the staff all from local Hmong and Lahu villages. Activity programmes such as batik making, tree planting and learning about the village ecosystem give guests an opportunity to gain an insight into tribal customs and life in northern Thailand.

*Mark Robinson 01993 838 107*



Lahu musician at the cultural display of dancing, Lanjia Lodge, Chiang Rai



Courtyard, Linden Centre, Dali

### Linden Centre, Dali, China

This small guesthouse is set around a traditional courtyard in the small, unspoilt village of Dali in Yunnan province. The activity options here are endless and can be tailored to meet the interests of visitors. If you'd like to meet the locals and understand their way of life you can eat with local families in their homes, play traditional sports and games with Xizhou villagers and learn about traditional Bai music and dance. Alternatively, those looking for self development can learn Tai Chi with a local master, source local produce and cook with the head chef at the Linden Centre or learn about the tea growing process that dates back thousands of years. And if you'd really like to make a difference you can opt to teach English in a local school, help local fishermen on Erhai Lake or participate in an archaeological dig.



Market at Xizhou village

Chris Moore 01993 838 213

## WEBplus

You can find more ideas for places to stay on our website.

[www.audley.co.uk/traveller/autumn2010](http://www.audley.co.uk/traveller/autumn2010)



Catlins Farmstay

### Catlins Farmstay, Curio Bay, New Zealand

Catlins Farmstay B&B is located on a well-established working farm home to sheep, deer and cattle. Situated close to Curio Bay, the farm is in a perfect position from which to explore the beautiful Catlins area with its fossil forests, dolphins, penguins and great walks. Your hosts, Murray and June Stratford, delight in sharing their home with guests and are more than happy to take you on a tour of the farm or assist you in exploring the Catlins. There are three superior quality guestrooms, keeping the property small and full of character, and hearty home-cooked breakfasts each morning.

Helen Richards 01993 838 824



Nugget Point, The Catlins Coast