

HEAD OUT TO CELEBRATE

Like us, if you're in a celebratory mood, pick from these exotic locales to make it even more special

Celebrations call for going that extra mile to make everything exclusive and grand. The journey, the destination and experience, everything matters. Make the most of all of that by heading off to these far-flung spots, each of which offers a unique feature – underwater rooms; skiing on the roof of Europe; spotting Northern Stars from the comfort of snow igloos, explorations in the southernmost tip of the world; or a quiet adventure on a secluded, exquisite, private island in Seychelles.



The Manta Resort

Tanzania

The lowdown Crafted along an idyllic island beach, the resort on Pemba, a remote island off the east coast of Africa, offers adventure and water sports away from civilisation. With its Underwater Room, you can experience the thrills of a floating hotel.

Best for Those seeking proximity with nature and a peaceful atmosphere. Interspersed with palms and rose bushes, the exteriors are breezy and provide spectacular scenery of the sea and the island and the hardwood-clad accommodations are comfy to the core. The mystique interiors of the underwater room, floating in the midst of clear, blue waters of the Indian Ocean await visitors to encapsulate them in a vista of glimmering reefs and shoals of exotic fish lurking all around. Start the day by trifling off into Pemban wildlife on a safari or explore the riches under the sea with their diving excursions; maybe you might spot a pod of dolphins waving at you. At the hotel, you can take a scintillating stroll across the beaches and let the landscape fill you with freshness and tranquillity, something no urban city can provide.

Book it Starting from 36,585 INR for a night for two (themantaresort.com)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Outer view of the Underwater Bedroom at the Manta Resort; an aerial view of the resort; inside one of the rooms; and inside view of the Underwater Room



ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The glass igloos in winter; the Aurora restaurant and igloo bar; a view from inside an igloo; a cluster of igloos from air



KAKSLAUTTANEN ARCTIC RESORT

Lapland, Finland

The lowdown Located at the edge of the wilderness, along the road to the Arctic Sea, it is the ideal place to spot the Northern Lights, Midnight Sun and experience world famous glass igloos and rustic log cabins.

The Kelo glass igloos combine the warmth and comfort of a log chalet with sensational views of Finnish topography, without compromising on luxury.

Best for From igloos, to chalets, to houses - all accommodations are sufficiently warm, comfy and have private saunas to relax and rejuvenate, but none of them feature TVs or Wifis in order to provide an undeterred experience of Lapland's bounty of nature and scenery. The resort is an idyllic red chalet, which apparently, was home to Santa Claus! Taking a five-minute reindeer safari to the chalet would inject a Christmas spirit in you anytime of the year! Each season comes with new activities for you to enjoy, so don't forget to search for the Midnight Sun in the summers, or miss a husky safari across the pure white backdrop of the Lapland forests in winter. Autumn is good for chasing Northern Lights, fishing trips or hiking in the UKK National Park. Don't forget to indulge in smoke saunas and ice swimming while there.

Book it Starting from ₹32,073 for a night for two (kakslauttanen.kuvat.fi)

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY THE HOTEL / VALTRERI HIRVONEN



CLOCKWISE Patagonia glacier, Torres del Paine National Park; sunset at Explora; inside one of the rooms with a view; and the hotel nestled amid snowy mountains

EXPLORA

Patagonia, Chile

The lowdown It's located in the southernmost tip of the world - Patagonia. Anchored like a ship by Lake Pehoé, at the heart of Torres del Paine National Park, Explora Patagonia is near another hotspot - The W Circuit trek. Experience glaciers, majestic mountains, turquoise lakes and gauchos.

Best for Enjoying breathtaking landscapes. The hotel's location is already strategic for a tour, but at the premises you can view the Paine River, Paine Massif and the Lake Pehoe to get a hint of Patagonia's unparalleled splendour. It is built mainly using wood, with species such as lenga, cypress and almendrillo. Its 49 accommodations are homely, featuring exclusive Patagonian furnishings and woodwork, and each having a unique view of the Patagonian panorama outside its windows. Enjoy stentorian expeditions to the Licancabur Volcano or ride across the virgin Patagonian horizons on horseback as part of the hotel's travel packages, and let the rugged terrains and fresh air leave you awestruck. Their treks and horseback rides include mountains, turquoise lakes, lenga tree forests, viewpoints, prairies and rivers. Enjoy their dishes, offering pure flavours from quality ingredients, that leave you feeling light and healthy, accompanied by a superb Chilean wine. The spa is equipped with a heated pool, sauna, and four open-air jacuzzis with views to the Paine River.

Book it Starting from ₹4,65,608 for four nights for two. (explora.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY THE HOTEL



ANTI-CLOCKWISE The Banyan Hill pool; one of the beaches used as a venue for weddings; a tastefully decorated bedroom; and the Banyan Hill master villa with the marina beach view



FRIGATE ISLAND PRIVATE

Seychelles

The lowdown With the promise of the ultimate in privacy, seclusion and exclusivity, the resort offers unique experiences. It is in close proximity to seven tropical beaches, with each having a unique character and atmosphere. The Anse Victorin beach is also considered one of the best beaches in the world, giving complete privacy to couples for a swim or a secret rendezvous.

Best for Its invigorating natural surroundings from beaches to plantations and a huge diversity of wildlife make this resort a haven for nature lovers. Diversity is also displayed in its various accommodations, from the lavish pool residences on the coastal line to the warm tropical Banyan Estate on a hilltop; each of them is well-equipped and luxurious to the core. There's something for everyone to enjoy, from high-end libraries and private lagoons for the solemn to kayaking and surfing for the more adventurous. However, spending a day searching for turtle hatchlings in the midst of natural Seychellois vibrance is worth every moment. Their organically crafted culinary items are sure to impress you. Maybe you can get a chance to catch fish for your own lunch if you're lucky.

Book it Starting at ₹3,53,860 for a night for two. (frigate.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY THE HOTEL



CLOCKWISE The Pashmina base camp; the lounge overlooking the ski slopes; the Pashmina igloo; the Aqua pool within the hotel



PASHMINA LE REFUGE

France

The lowdown A haven of luxury on Europe's roof, it offers the largest ski area in the world with 600 km of slopes. While all its accommodations are warm and comfy, the rooftop igloo-pod is an experience of its own league, with views of a star-filled sky above and the exquisite mountainous landscape and snow-capped slopes at 2,500 m above the ground.

Best for Experiencing icy, wild, thrill-evoking surroundings from the roof of Val Thorens. Perched on the mountain flank, the hotel offers a cosy refuge with refined interiors, spacious rooms, fine cuisine, and spa treatments. Its plush, cosy accommodations range from wood-paneled single-rooms to entire Chalet apartments, and of course, the famous igloo-pod. Situated in the fabulous '3 valleys' domain, the hotel's location boasts of a 600 km area dedicated to ski slopes, the largest in the entire world! It also holds snow-shoe trekking, mountain biking and Boarder Cross in the Two Lakes area, a perfect getaway from your everyday town life to a welcoming environment! The authentic gourmet dishes crafted by top-notch chef Josselin Jean Blanc shall surely give leave a lasting impact on your taste buds.

Book it Starting from 12,752 INR for a night for two (hotelpashmina.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY THE HOTEL / GERARD COTTET

