

DESTINATIONS OF THE WORLD
news

Essential travel intelligence

November 2020

SUMMIT IN THE AIR

Conquering peaks and other
purposeful pursuits in Cape Town

KYOTO'S NEW COOL

Exploring the city's luxury
hotel boom

CALL OF THE WILD

Private bubble safaris along
the Zambezi at Matetsi
Victoria Falls



**CHASING
THE WINTER
SUN**

SUN-KISSED HOLIDAYS
A LITTLE LESS ORDINARY,
FROM MADAGASCAR
TO MARRAKECH

EXCLUSIVE TIMEPIECES



EXQUISITE JEWELS



UNIQUE ESCAPES



LUXURY CARS



HAVING LIVED IN DUBAI FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS, the notion of escaping on an all-important winter-sun holiday had, well, sort of escaped me. But before moving here, when I'd grown long-accustomed to the arctic climes of a UK winter, I'd stare longingly through travel agent windows as they advertised sun-kissed vacations in temperatures and destinations I could only dream of. Then, when I moved to Dubai, where winter weather rarely drips below 20 degrees during the day, there was far less call to seek sunshine elsewhere.

However, after Covid-19 played havoc with my travel plans and I, like so many of us, have spent most of the last few months indoors and not abroad on some far-flung travel whim, I have a serious itch to just go – go anywhere, just get me out of here, please. I want to go somewhere sunny, somewhere exotic, somewhere I can literally taste the adventure. I want to reawaken my travel senses and nurture my curious soul.

And so, while winter sun holidays are usually focused around a tropical beach, we've scratched beneath the surface to bring you warm winter wanderlust somewhere a little less ordinary. Find out what it is about Madagascar, Costa Rica and Marrakech that made the cut in *Here Comes The Winter Sun* on page 34.

In this issue, I also speak to Federico J. Gonzalez, CEO of Radisson Hotel Group, about optimism and opportunity in the travel industry; celebrate a space-travelling canine's 50th anniversary with Omega; and discover why Kyoto's the city on everybody's wish-list, from hoteliers to holiday-makers.

Until next month, may your travels be rich, wide and wonderful wherever they take you...

Emily Baxter-Priest
Editor-in-Chief
editorial@dotwnews.com

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news
WWW.DOTWNEWS.COM

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Publisher: Anna Zhukov
anna@dotwnews.com

Editor-in-Chief: Emily Baxter-Priest
emily@dotwnews.com

Editor-at-Large: Joe Mortimer
joe@dotwnews.com

IT Executive & Web Developer:
Shyam Sundar Valluri
shyam@wnnlimited.com

Sales Director: Matthew McQueen
matthew.mcqueen@dotwnews.com

Sales Manager: Aysha Chapti
aysha@dotwnews.com

Circulation department:
circulate@dotwnews.com

Finance department:
accounts@wnnlimited.com

Contributors:
Kris Karacinski, Georgie Bradley



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PO Box 500661, Dubai, UAE
Tel +971 4 3910680 Fax +971 4 3910688; WNN Limited, 31 Archbishop Kyprianou Street, 3036, PO Box 51234,
zip 3503, Limassol, Cyprus

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DESTINATIONS

THE WORLD'S MOST DESIRABLE LOCATIONS



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BAY OF DREAMS

The thought of escaping the confines of one's current surrounds sounds incredible right now. Look further than the usual winter-sun suspects to be rewarded with a fresh take on a winter break: a rich heritage in Marrakech, animals in Madagascar and stylish seclusion in Cyprus (pictured).

- 34** From Costa Rica to Marrakech and Cyprus to Vietnam, dive into our feature on winter sun escapes for those seeking something a little less ordinary
- 40** Escapes: Make the most of your holiday with these incredible winter offers, from Paris to Koh Samui

HERE COMES THE WINTER
SUN

If there was ever a time to escape the day-to-day, it is now. So, plan your winter sojourns to somewhere a little less ordinary and let travel nourish your soul

WORDS: Georgie Bradley



CYPRUS

A SHORT-HAUL HOLIDAY

Nonchalantly cool and perfectly undone Cyprus is a treasure of secluded coves, tame beaches and sun-bleached bars and restaurants. It has rightfully earned its reputation as the ultimate easy beach destination – especially in the winter once it is free of the summer crowds. What might not come so easy – especially on holiday – is getting yourself up before the crack of dawn for a tranquil sunrise view – Cyprus benefits from a spillover of the Middle East’s oozing colours. But perhaps in a foreign destination you’d reason it as worth the hassle.

Paphos in particular is one of Cyprus’ starring locations, marrying up coasts and culture without overwhelming. Anassa, meaning breath in Greek, is a hotel that prides itself on no-frills elegance (www.anassa.com). Beyond the main district, in the slow pace hillside of Poli Chrysochous, Anassa is a secluded sanctuary built on a reassuring palette of white and blue. From pool villas to family friendly retreats, the hotel’s accommodation overlooks crystal-clear waters. You can be as engaged in the local terrain as you want. The hotel offers a visit to a nearby donkey farm, a local wine tasting experience and even a pottery session. But if you just want to remain horizontal with the caress of the salty breeze lulling you in and out of a daze, Anassa is fit for purpose.

Those who find sunbathing a bore will be pleased to know Paphos is also a world-class spot for history and culture. The whole city is UNESCO-listed and it is near impossible to turn without happening upon a reminder of the city’s extraordinary past. Take the 16th-century Agia Kyriaki Chrysopolitissa church, where the ruins of the Byzantine basilica it was built on still scatter the approach or one of the largest draws is the district’s Archaeological Park, home to Roman villas and fine mosaics. A stroll through the old town skips through eras and influences from Venetian-fronts to 19th-century façades.

