

Vacations & Travel

{ For the love
of adventure

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Wander + wonder

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Latest Lodgings

Compiled by Eleanor Edstrom

COMMUNITY CALLS

There's a new kid on the block in Byron Bay. Hybrid hotel-hostel brand Drifter has opened its first full-operation Australian outpost in the free-spirited NSW enclave. Forget dingy dorms that feel akin to braving a night in a prison cell. This 52-room, design-led social hub offers budget-friendly shared suites, along with private and twin rooms awash in earthy tones. Mingle in the rooftop pool area (featuring a DJ booth), or set up camp in the lounge's workspaces. thedrifter.com



© Tommaso Barletta

Suite spot

Held by the Perkhofer family for five generations, Venice's Hotel Gabrielli has returned to its former splendour after a meticulous restoration by Starhotels Collezione. Murano glass chandeliers and original frescoes suffice to make any art fiend's heart flutter, but what really makes this 66-key lodging sing is its prime placement along the Riva degli Schiavoni waterfront. Toast saffron sunsets on the panoramic rooftop terrace and wander private gardens that once welcomed Franz Kafka and Sigmund Freud. collezione.starhotels.com



© Mharo Khet

Cultivated calm

If 'design-led farm escape' makes your ears prick up, it's worth checking into Mharo Khet in India's remarkable Rajasthan region. Located just outside of Jodhpur, the retreat sits on 16 hectares of flourishing farmland that welcomed guests for the first time in 2021 with thoughtful farm tours and culinary experiences. This September saw the

property fully open with 10 private cottages – elegant, landscape-inspired dwellings providing a soulful alternative to the region's many palace stays. Guests can harvest, decompress under khejri trees and treat their tastebuds to a nine-course, plant-forward dining journey set within a sprawling guava orchard. mharokhet.com

Cast away

After a phase of wellness-oriented renovation, Kagi Maldives Resort & Spa has just reopened its doors on the stunning North Malé Atoll. The 50-villa boutique resort, comprising beachside and overwater accoms surrounded by wildlife-rich reef, has reimagined the offerings at its 1500sqm spa. The refreshed concept introduces several new therapies, from a jet lag recovery treatment to a sunburn soother, along with a collection of multi-day Baani wellness retreats designed to stimulate deep rejuvenation and renewal. kagimaldives.com



© Kagi Maldives



© Garde Hotel

Time well served

Garde Hotel is bridging the old and new in Fremantle, Perth's dynamic cultural hotspot. Previously the historic Fremantle Police Headquarters, the hotel's 83 new rooms and suites integrate original architecture with clean contemporary interiors, while the wellness space brings an infrared

sauna and ice shower. The development also involved absorbing the 23 pre-existing Warders Hotel cottages, which once housed prison officers from the UNESCO-inscribed Fremantle Prison. Coast in for a heritage-steeped stay and linger for the punchy Japanese-Korean fare at the newly minted Anglesea restaurant. gardehotel.com.au



© Roel Ruijs

Dutch refurb

Tucked along the Keizersgracht canal and housed in the city's first stone theatre, The Dylan Amsterdam has already hit the location jackpot. But now the boutique hotel is upping its game. Transforming 21 of its 41 suites, the refurb spotlights freestanding Vallone bathtubs, warm tones, oakwood, and swoon-worthy living spaces decked out with vintage pieces and exposed beam ceilings. Beyond aesthetics, the update also included eco-friendly enhancements to the insulation and ventilation systems. dylanamsterdam.com