

escapism

THE UK'S BIGGEST INDEPENDENT TRAVEL MAGAZINE

COOL HOTELS



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HIP HOT

From treehouses in Thailand to rooftop tipis in Australia, we've scoured the globe to find the coolest hotels you never knew existed...

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TELS





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The Jalakara in the Andaman Islands; Keemala in Phuket; Book and Bed Tokyo, where the emphasis is very much on the books, and not the beds

EXPERIENCES



ROOMS APPEAR TO BE SUSPENDED FROM THE CANOPY LIKE TREEHOUSES

Asia

The Jalakara, Andaman Islands, India

Havelock Island in the Andaman Islands isn't the easiest to reach, but The Jalakara – a new, colourful and cool six-suite hotel – will make every sweaty hour of the trip worth it. The former banana plantation has been converted into a laid-back property that blends traditional Indian colours and fabrics with modern, clean-cut lines. Laze at the infinity pool or trot around the badminton lawn, and if you're keen to explore the island (you'd be crazy not to) you'll find strolling elephants, pretty palm-fringed beaches and mangroves begging you to kayak through them.

HOW: I-escape offers nightly rates at The Jalakara from £170, i-escape.com/the-jalakara; flight prices vary – check statravel.com

Keemala, Phuket, Thailand

Phuket needs no introduction, so we'll keep it brief: it's gorgeous. The island has seen a flurry of new hotel openings over the last few years, but the one that's really caught our eye is the Keemala. Why? Well, instead of being located on the beach, the rooms are seemingly suspended from the rainforest canopy in a treehouse style. That doesn't mean you have to forgo any luxuries, however – each room comes with a private pool, rain shower and beds they claim are big enough for six (although we recommend you stick with two).

HOW: From £416 a night, keemala.com; Etihad offers direct flights to Phuket. From £450 return, etihad.com

NIYAMA, Maldives

You know the score – white sands, dazzling water, luxe hotel plonked on an island. For the dreamiest sunny break with some added cool, try NIYAMA, a 'luxury playground' where bright yellow sun brollies complement vivid interiors. Chill out on your private deck, making the most of the free mini-bar, with popcorn, booze and chocolate. When you're not lazing around catching rays there are watersports galore, a 24-hour spa, Tribal (a safari-style restaurant), and a restaurant in a treehouse. There's even one underwater – which beats trying to snorkel and eat at the same time.

HOW: ITC Luxury Travel offers seven nights B&B from £2,169, based on two sharing with international flights and seaplane transfers. itcluxurytravel.co.uk

Book and Bed library hotel, Tokyo, Japan

There's a lot of kooky stuff going on in Tokyo, like owl cafés, loo restaurants and five-person micro bars. Accommodation can be similarly, er, novel, and the Book and Bed hotel is just that – the 'accommodation bookshop' is essentially a library hotel.

According to the owners, you'll experience that "blissful instant of falling asleep" – you

Don't be too fooled by the name – while it does itself an 'accommodation bookshop', you can't actually buy any of the books here. But you can stay. So it's half true...

know, that moment, mid bedtime reading, when your eyelids start to droop and your book clatters to the floor. Don't expect comfort in this compact, 

