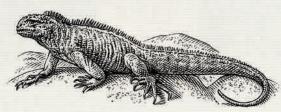
PIKAIA LODGE

SANTA CRUZ, THE GALAPAGOS



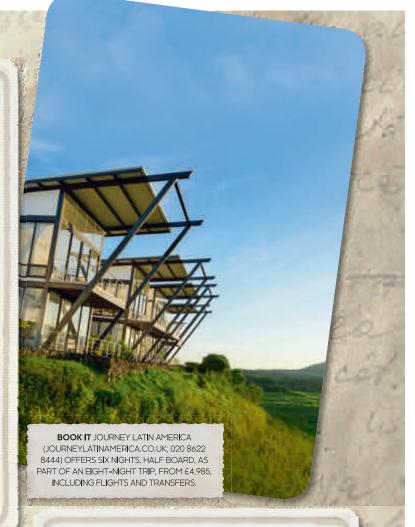
Natural habitat Wildlife boffins rejoice! Now you can visit the Galapagos without being stuck on a boat, so you can 'do' the archipelago with a supersized, supersoft bed to collapse into each night.

Nocturnal activity A shrine to beautiful, sustainable modernism, with 14 monochrome rooms featuring marble bathrooms and vast, glass walls that bring the wild volcanic landscape right to the foot of your bed.

Grrr factor Pink flamingo? Check. Blue-footed booby, frigate bird, Galapagos penguin, sea lion, marine iguana, giant tortoise... check, check, check.

Distinctive markings Whizz to all the main sites on a 100ft yacht. You'll have your own stateroom to snooze or shower off in after kayaking, snorkelling and hiking, followed by a talk from one of the charming guides.

Grazing Evolution restaurant is strong on stuff they've hauled in from the sea – moreish octopus carpaccio, say. Leader of the pack Paulina is as clever and chatty-chatty as they come, merrily explaining the origin of species.



SINGITA BOULDERS LODGE

SABI SAND RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA



Natural habitat Spread along the banks of the Sand River, this lodge is ethnic chic to the max: rough-stone walls, animal-hide rugs, wafty fabrics and scatter cushions. Nocturnal activity Each set of guest rooms is bigger than your average Mayfair pad, with four-poster beds, his-and-hers sinks and plunge pools.

Grrr factor They have a knack for getting the big five – lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros – to appear as if on command, but the real triumph is spotting the ever-elusive wild dog.

Distinctive markings Head to the Bush Spa for its utterly zonk-out-worthy Monkey Orange massage.

Grazing You'll eat not once, not twice but SIX times a day. Expect lots of exotic game meat. And weight gain.

Leader of the pack There are daily bumpity-bumps out into the bush with personal guides, as well as romantic starlit night safaris. If you're bored (what is WRONG with you?), you can swap four wheels for a spot of mountain-biking or archery.

