

Nothofagus Hotel and Spa, Patagonia, Chile

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: If it's sensory overload you are after, the Nothofagus Hotel and Spa – built around the roots of an ancient oak tree, with an illuminated waterfall running through it – should tick the box. Situated deep within the Huilo Huilo forests in Patagonia, the hotel – which rises some 35 metres from the forest floor to the tops of the trees – has been named one of the five most exotic hotels in the world.

Offering staggering views of the forest and Mocho-Choshuenco volcano, the hotel winds up a spiral ramp, its railings and beams covered in roots and vines, creating an extraordinary experience even before the supreme comforts, exquisite dining and luxe spa have been touched on.

The spectacle doesn't stop here either: the Huilo Huilo UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is one of the 25 most valuable eco-regions of the planet. Visitors can explore the surrounding forest, the ancient watercourses, the Mocho-Choshuenco volcano (which forms part of the Patagonian Andes), the glaciers, the hot springs, the rivers and lakes. A spectacular sailing trip takes guests 26km over the incredible Pirehueico Lake to pristine white sand beaches and rock formations, as well as the Termas de Lago spa for a relaxing thermal bath. There's



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also hiking, skiing and sleighing (even in midsummer), bird-watching, water sports, fishing, cycling, horse riding, canopy tours and the local Petermann Brewery.

Back at the hotel, head to the 970m² of indoor/outdoor spa facilities, which include heated pools, whirlpools, dry saunas, steam therapy, massage and a pool bar.

WHEN TO GO: The warmest months are December, January and February, and the coldest are June, July and August. Choose your dates according to the activities and sports you want to try.

VISIT: huilohuilo.com

Photographs: supplied



Kakuli Bush Camp, Norman Carr Safaris, South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT: The beautiful Kakuli is situated on the banks of the Luangwa River and consists of four walk-in safari tents with en-suite bathrooms made from natural materials. Almost as close as you can get to nature while still enjoying luxury, the camp is perched on an elevated stretch of river bank, overlooking a wide grazing lawn at the confluence of the Luangwa and Luwi rivers. One of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world, the South Luangwa National Park boasts teeming game, a great diversity of habitat and wildlife, a thriving population of the endangered African wild dog and is one of the best parks in Africa to view leopards in their natural environment.

Honeymooning at Kakuli comes with its own pampering, which includes sunset river cruises (January 20 to April 5 only), moonlit dinners, sparkling wine on tap, scatterings of flowers and, if you're up for the ultimate, a "Return to the Wild" sleep-out under the stars – just a bed roll and mozzie net, no tent!

Guests can boat, drive or walk as they explore the area. The thatched chitenje (lounge) at Kakuli forms a welcoming centre

of camp, with its viewing deck, central bar and sumptuous dining. Don't miss out on the nightly game drives – there is a thriving population of predators in this area and the first few hours of darkness is prime viewing time! Norman Carr Safaris has just won the "Best Guiding Team in Africa" category at the 2014 Safari Awards, so you know you'll be in exceptional hands!

WHEN TO GO: Best game viewing is January 20 to April 5 and May 20 to November 7.

VISIT: normancarsafaris.com [wi](#)

