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# Livingetc

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THAT WILL  
TRANSFORM  
ANY SPACE

**FASHION YOUR HOME**  
*Add Individuality*



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# THE CALL OF JUNGLE LODGES

Explore the untamed expanses and their true wilderness as you get ready for the adventurous jungle safaris through these jungle lodges.

WORDS ROMA ARORA



## BLANCANEAUX LODGE, BELIZE

**BEST FOR...** holidaying in the lap of rocks, rivers and greens.

**WHY?** Dense jungles, spectacular waterfalls and the rare species of flora and fauna makes for a convincing jungle playground. Winner of Condé Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards - Top 10 Resorts in Central & South America, 2007-2009.

**WHERE?** Overlooking the Privassion River, the lodge is located in the northwest corner of the 107,000-acre Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve in western Belize's Cayo District.

**STAYING IN** Rooms that have stone walls and timber roofing. Relax and take a refreshing dip in the infinity pool. There's a waterfall spa set on the banks of Privassion Creek that offers a variety of treatments and massages. Relish the Italian flavours at the Montagna Ristorante with a local rum punch from the Jaguar Bar. Also try the poolside Guatemaltecuca restaurant. The lodge has a gift shop and its own organic garden full of fresh vegetables and fruits.

**STYLE TIP** Hand woven thatched roof, colonial antique

furniture and beautiful use of Guatemalan fabric gives a soothing look to the room. Also interesting are the hand-painted tiles and Japanese tub in the bathroom.

**OUT AND ABOUT** Explore the wildlife of Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve on the back of a horse. Also plan out for the Rio Frio Cave and Barton Creek Cave. The hidden Big Rock Falls are a short trip away by car or mountain bike. Do visit Xunantunich and Caracol—the Maya Archeological site in the Cayo District.

**MORE INFO** 20 rooms. During peak season, rate for double occupancy starts from, Rs 15,396 for a garden view cabana and Rs 20,063 for a honeymoon one including continental breakfast, taxes extra. During summer the prices come down to Rs 10,728 and Rs 13,527 respectively (coppolaresorts.com). Consult your travel agent for best deals depending on the season.





### ELSA'S KOPJE, MERU, KENYA

**BEST FOR...** beautiful landscapes, unfamiliar sounds and exotic hidden sights.

**WHY?** The lodge is within the Meru National Park, which is home to many rivers and springs, white rhinos, zebras, giraffes, lion, leopard and also rare species of birds. Winner of 101 Best Hotels by Tatler Travel Guide 2007.

**WHERE?** It is located on Mugwangho Hill, Meru National Park-northeast of Nairobi (7 miles north of the Equator). Mughwango airstrip is a 5 minute drive from the lodge.

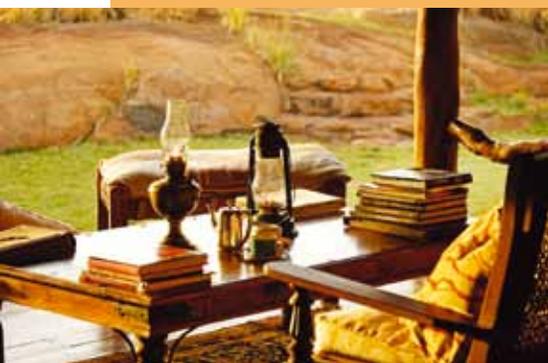
**STAYING IN** Rooms that are designed to bring you the closest to nature. You can begin with a refreshing dip in the infinity pool overlooking the Meru plains. Get yourself a rejuvenating massage and lie down in the sun as you do nothing. There's an open bar that serves best of wines, spirits and champagnes. At the dining room, you can find Northern Italian cuisine blended with a selection of local and international dishes, fresh baked bread, crisp salads and locally grown vegetables.

**STYLE TIP** Bring home a cosy style inspired by natural forms and open-ness. The beds are romantically swathed in netting, handcrafted furniture is accessorised with hand-woven rugs, earth toned cushions and lanterns.

**OUT AND ABOUT** Start from the Rhino sanctuary in the Meru National Park, where finding the rhino is still a game drive challenge. The lodge arranges a lot of activities like sundowners at the hippo pool amongst silhouetted down palms, line fishing, exploring the park on the foot. Get romantic and order a bush breakfast out on the plains. Plan a day excursion to the Tana River on jeep with packed lunches. Also take a trip to the Tharaka tribal village on the Southern Boundary of the Park.

#### MORE INFO

8 cottages, 1 honeymoon suite and Elsa's private house (elsaskopje.com). The rate for double occupancy starts from Rs 17,270 and goes upto Rs 27,774 in the peak season (including soft drinks, beer, bush meals, sundowners, line fishing, local airstrip transfers, laundry service).



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stay

### ANAVILHANAS LODGE, BRAZIL

**BEST FOR...** fun-filled adventure activities and wilderness.

**WHY?** No show offs and no flashy decoration. This place is all about natural beauty and delightful simplicity.

**WHERE?** Situated in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil the lodge is located 110 km northwest of Manaus, in the county of Novo Airão—on the right margin of Rio Negro, in front of the Archipelago Anavilhanas. Take the regular ferry boat from Manaus across the Rio Negro. Journey 180km by van to Novo Airão and then 15 minutes by boat to the hotel.

**STAYING IN** The reception has fun things like pool table, games, library, satellite TV and internet. The lodge has its own floating jetty with a swimming platform. Alternately you can cool off in the lovely pool. For a quick bite, go to the bar and binge on excellent sandwiches. There's a hut with hammocks, so enjoy your read as you relax in them. Sample cuisines that range from the traditional to international at the restaurant.

**STYLE TIPS** Wooden structures on stilts, handcrafted local accessories and bright curtains create a charming rustic atmosphere.

**OUT AND ABOUT** Swim with the Amazonian Dolphins in the Negro's river. Explore the greatest Amazonian mysteries of animals, wild fruits and herbs at the forest. Be brave and go for alligator sightseeing trips along the riverbanks or else go fishing. Visit the handicraft studios in Novo Airao to know more about the regional art and crafts. Canoeing in Monteiro and Pato rivers is also an option.

**MORE INFO** 16 thatched wooden suites (anavilhanaslodge.com). Package for 3 days/2 nights starts from Rs 37,582 per person in double or triple room This includes: transfers, all meals, excursions and bilingual jungle guide (Drinks are not included). For prices and bookings visit (yatra.com), (airticketsindia.com) or (travelcity.co.in).

