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TRAVEL ISSUE

Wild & wonderful

Tea with a maharaja in Rajasthan An edible golf course in the Caribbean

Exploring Jersey's dark secrets

Snake-hunting in rural Italy

'We gazed at one another like old friends' Close encounters with orang-utans

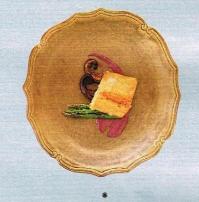
MORE PIONEERING PROJECTS

Ceylon Tea Trails, Sri Lanka

The family behind one of the world's largest independent tea companies is also Sri Lanka's biggest philanthropic dynasty, funding community and conservation projects. So, unsurprisingly, they have ventured into tourism in a thoughtful way. Ceylon Tea Trails has five colonial-era planter's bungalows and a cottage in the hill country, between which guests are encouraged to cycle or hike. Ten per cent of profits from stays goes into the family's MJF Charitable Foundation, which helps fund projects assisting disadvantaged communities and a new education centre, where guests can teach English. Ampersand Travel (020-7819 9770; ampersandtravel.com)

Song Saa, Cambodia

This private-island resort in the remote, impoverished Koh Rong archipelago is blazing a trail for sustainability in the region. Employing locals to build villas from recycled materials and run the resort, it has also set up the Song Saa Foundation, funded by guest (and other) donations to develop community projects. Song Saa offers small-group philanthropic tours, where guests can participate in everything from coral-reef surveys to 'Boat of Hope' medical-outreach missions. Jacada Travel (020-3131 7407; jacadatravel.com)



Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, Peru

Arbiter of sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives for 40 years, Inkaterra, which runs its own NGO, provides guests with remarkable experiences in Peru. It does this while working with local communities to protect and showcase the culture and nature of the country. The new Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba in Cusco's Sacred Valley is its fifth accommodation offering, and the first to run an eco farm. Cox & Kings (020-3642 0861; coxandkings.co.uk)

Village Ways, Ethiopia

A social enterprise focused on developing responsible tourism in partnership with poorer rural communities around the world, Village Ways is next month launching a holiday in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains. Travellers visit three villages, staying in simple, locally run guest houses and learning how the people farm and make things, before hiking on to the next hamlet. *Village Ways (01223-750049; villageways.com)*

AnaYela, Marrakesh

It was only as restoration began that the owner of this 300-year-old riad in the heart of the medina, Andrea Kolb, truly 'got' the importance and skill of local craftsmanship. She and her husband launched it as a five-room hotel in 2008, before setting up a design label to showcase local artisans and a foundation supporting projects in their villages – from schools where seamstresses pass down their skills to the building of water wells and eye clinics. *Design Hotels (designhotels.com)*. Francesca Syz

CARIBBEAN DREAM

An edible golf course, outdoor bathrooms and 103 different types of mango make for a unique hotel. Jessamy Calkin travels to St Kitts, where luxury and sustainability go hand in hand. Photographs by Philip Sinden

View from one of the guest houses at Belle Mont Farm, part of the Kittitian Hill scheme on St Kitts

